

Like other girls of the Miao nationality, Long began learning embroidery from the age of four.

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The Thinkers coffee shop rides the line between java house and reading room.

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The small town of Anyue would be unremarkable were it not for the ancient stone sculptures that lie scattered about the county.

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# BEIJING TODAY

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## Six Parties Resolved to Solve Korean Nuclear Issue

The six parties convened in China for the third round of talks on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue have all shown a strong political will to resolve the issue.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue made the remarks at a regular press conference yesterday in Beijing. "In this sense, the talks have made achievements already," she said.

Zhang said the six-party talks would focus on two key aspects, one of which is how to achieve a nuclear weapon-free status on the Korean Peninsula, including the extent and method of the nuclear program dismantlement and how to solve the concerns of relevant parties.

The other aspect is how to make the first step of the denuclearization process, which includes the freezing of the nuclear program, and what corresponding approaches the relevant parties should take.

Wang Yi, head of the Chinese delegation and vice foreign minister, enunciated China's principled proposition on the Korean nuclear issue and its idea on how to kick off the first stage of action.

"All sides raised detailed plans or proposals in the talks, which indicated the political intention of pushing the talks toward progress," noted Wang. "All sides treated other counterparts' plans conscientiously and in a spirit of looking forward, which embodied mutual respect and equal consultation."

China is very glad that the participating parties set forth proposals with substantial content, Zhang said, citing this itself as evidence of progress.

The relevant parties have expressed their welcome to the proposals, but it is still too early to predict what final outcome the third-round talks could bear, Zhang said.

(Xinhua)



## Wildlife Bites Back

A resident of Badaling Wildlife Park eagerly awaits a live snack.

Photo by Dong Nan

**In April and May of this year, a lion bit a ten-year-old girl at Wuhan Caidian Wildlife Park, a bear broke the door of tourist vehicle at Beijing Badaling Wildlife Park, an animal trainer was badly injured by a tiger during a performance at Nanjing Zhenzhuquan Wildlife Park.**

By Dong Nan

The number of wildlife parks in China has grown from zero to 36 in the past 10 years, three times as many as there are in the US. In this kind of zoo, the animals and birds are able to roam relatively freely, while the visitors sit in tourist buses to look at the carnivores, and are allowed to walk among the herbivores and birds.

However there has been a steady stream of media reports in recent years about tourists being attacked by animals at such parks. Just in April and May of this year, a lion bit a ten-year-old girl at Wuhan Caidian Wildlife Park, a bear broke the door of tourist vehicle at Beijing Badaling Wildlife Park, an animal trainer was badly injured by a tiger during a performance at Nanjing Zhenzhuquan Wildlife Park, and this is by no means a complete list.

**Safety first?**

Han, a local Beijinger experienced a little more excitement than expected when he visited Badaling Wildlife Park during the recent Labor Day holiday. As he and 24 other tourists sat in a mini-bus enclosed in steel mesh, a large black bear approached the bus, smashed the door in with its paw, then thrust its head into the bus. Fortunately for the passengers, the driver managed to drive away before anyone was injured.

Han and the other passengers concluded that four live chickens in the bus had attracted the attention of the bear. The chickens were provided for tourists to feed the lions and tigers, but the bear arrived on the scene first. When the alarmed passengers implored

the guide to throw the chickens out of the bus, he refused, stating that they were worth 30 yuan each. Consequently, the nervous passengers had to pass through the lion and tiger area in a bus with a broken door, stocked with no doubt equally nervous chickens.

Dangers are not restricted to the carnivorous animal section. In August 2001, *Beijing Youth Daily* reported that a girl named Beibei was bitten by a zebra as she was feeding it, also at Badaling Wildlife Park.

Liu Nonglin, an engineer at the Chinese Association of Zoological Gardens told *Beijing Today*, "Herbivores are generally quite meek, however sometimes they can bite or kick people. It is dangerous for visitors to get too close to them and feed them casually." He added, "Besides, both animals and people have the possibility to infect the other with diseases. For example, wild birds can infect people with bird flu, and if people spit, they might infect animals with pulmonary diseases."

In most of China's wildlife parks, car owners can drive their cars into the animal enclosures. At Badaling Wildlife Park, it is simply a matter of paying an extra 30 yuan on top of the 70-yuan admission ticket. Accident insurance is included in this fee, but no further education or introductions are provided to those drivers about the potential dangers.

Meanwhile staff are rarely equipped with proper knowledge. According to Liu Nonglin, in traditional zoos, most staff members have taken a two-year study in zoology and relevant management courses organized by local forestry bureaus. However, in wildlife parks, the staff members are usually recruited from local villages. They have no special education or training, and are paid a very low salary accordingly.

Wang, a tourist guide at Badaling Wildlife Park told *Beijing Today*, "I am not a student of zoology or tourism. I am just a Hebei resident who went to Beijing to find a job." Wen, a guard in charge of the peacock enclosure told a similar story, saying he earned a salary of 500 yuan per month.

**Animal welfare**

"Do you want to know the difference between wolves and dogs, do you want to know who are more fierce, tigers or lions? Pay only 30 yuan to buy a chicken, throw it out of the bus, and you will find out." This is the pitch Badaling Wildlife Park tour guides use to get tourists to buy live chickens to feed to the carnivores.

Sometimes, the guides put the purchased chicken on the roof of the bus, so the tigers or lions will jump onto the bus to get their quarry.

If visitors are not satisfied with sacrificing a chicken, the park also offers live goats, at a cost of 300 yuan. According to Liu, most wildlife parks provide such services.

"In fact, throwing live animals to carnivores for the entertainment of tourists is forbidden by the World Zoo Organization and the State Forestry Bureau of China," he told *Beijing Today*.

Most parks also offer less blood-thirsty forms of entertainment. At Badaling, visitors can feed the Malayan sun bears tins of cola. The bears are well practiced at biting the tops off. In the peacock enclosure, *Beijing Today* witnessed a man feeding a large cake to one of the birds. The peacock devoured it and turned to other tourists for more. When asked about the possible effects on the peacock's health, Wen, the guard said he had no background in zoology, "Don't worry, it'll digest it soon anyway."

**Geese, but no golden eggs**

Despite the entertainment they offer, most wildlife parks make little or no profit. "Almost all wildlife parks in China cannot earn money," Liu Nonglin told *Beijing Today*.

According to Jiang Wenjun, president of a wildlife park in Chongqing, the park suffered a loss of three million yuan in 2003.

"At the very beginning, when wild animal parks were a new concept, they were seen as a source of great potential profits," said Liu Nonglin, "But locals do not visit them very often, and in places like Beijing, very few people would go in winter. Many wildlife park operators are not far-sighted enough to foresee these problems."

**No supervision**

Traditional government-run zoos are under the supervision of the Ministry of Construction. However, wildlife parks operated by private companies are different. They are nominally under the control of state and local forestry bureaus, but those bureaus only have the right to check whether the animals were obtained through legal channels, and then issue licenses for breeding wild animals.

In another words, they have no jurisdiction over matters concerning the safety of tourists or the management of the parks.

"Our responsibility is limited to the animals only," said Wang Minzhong, head of the wild animal section of the Beijing Forestry Bureau to *Beijing Today*, "The actual management of those wild animal parks is the business of the owners, we are not able to intervene."

Liu Nonglin commented, "Those wild animal parks operate virtually unsupervised. This leads to many problems. For example, an important index for assessing the level of zoos is the death rate of animals. But no government departments or associations are able to obtain such statistics from the wild animal parks."

"Those wild animal parks are not like the wildlife parks in Africa, which are based on natural conditions with few or no introduced species and a minimum of human intervention," Liu said.

The World Zoo Conservation Strategy, issued by the World Zoo Organization, states "Although many zoos may be run as commercial enterprises, often all of the profits are invested into conservation goals." The profit-oriented wildlife parks in China clearly do not fit this scenario.

"In foreign countries, most zoos are non-profit organizations. They aim to both educate and entertain the public, protect rare animals and carry out scientific research, as opposed to making money for companies," said Liu.

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## Free Personal Classifieds

Beijing Today is launching a free personal classifieds service. For sale and wanted ads, situations wanted and vacant, language exchange and personals, and rentals will be

printed free of charge. Email your personal classifieds (in English and Chinese) to [info@ynet.com](mailto:info@ynet.com). Personal classifieds should conform to relevant laws and regulations.



# 2,000 SOEs Face Bankruptcy

By Yi Yi  
A draft law on corporate bankruptcy was submitted to China's top legislative body Monday for a first hearing.  
On the same day, an official from the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission revealed that there are some 2,000 state-owned enterprises (SOEs) in extreme operational difficulty that need either to declare bankruptcy or be bailed out of the market through administrative means.  
"The 2,000 enterprises will be the last passel to be excluded from the bankruptcy law under discussion. Most of the 2,000 enterprises are military factories and exhausted mines in the remote areas, whose employees are living

a hard life," the official told Xinhua Monday, "In three to five years, these enterprises will complete their administrative closure."  
"Administrative closure" refers to when certain SOEs announce bankruptcy, all their assets are primarily allocated to provide for the unemployed and layoff workers, rather than paying off bank debts.  
"It will harm the interest of their creditors – the state-owned commercial banks," says Li Shuguang, a drafter of the bill and vice dean of the Graduate School of the China University of Politics and Law, "if the government allows the debts to be cancelled, it has a strong flavor of administrative interference."  
The latest statistics from the State-owned Assets Supervision and

Administration Commission shows that by April 2004, the government had arranged administrative closure of 3,377 projects, and canceled a total of 2.23 trillion (223.8 billion) yuan bad debts caused by SOE bankruptcies. The central bank has set aside altogether 49.3 billion yuan of compensation funds.  
In view of the unique problems facing China's SOEs, the draft bill noted that during the time and scale set by the State Council, SOEs shall follow certain regulations to implement bankruptcy. When the time frame and scale reaches the maturity date, bankruptcy of any SOEs shall comply fully with the bankruptcy law.  
The draft bill submitted to the tenth session of the Standing Com-

mittee of the National People's Congress stresses the importance of equally protecting the interests of both the lender and the lendee, as well as their employees.  
"This means that the SOEs will eventually go to the market and become the main body in the market competition," says Li Shuguang.  
The 2,000 SOEs listed to be bailed out administratively represents a small portion compared with the overall total of over 100,000 SOEs. The development of the market economy over the decades, the deepening of SOE reforms and establishment of the social security system have all paved the way for the corporate bankruptcy law, which has been under deliberation for ten years.



## Rail Rolls into Tibet

Nearly two centuries after the invention of the railway, the symbol of modern civilization has made its way to Tibet, the "roof of the world," for the first time.

On Tuesday, two 25-meter-long rails were laid at Amdo Station, 440 kilometers north of Lhasa, at the foot of the Tanggula Range in Amdo County, Tibet.  
Xinhua Photo

## Price Hikes Pressure Economy

By Chu Meng  
Surging prices are putting pressure on the government, though the economy is still under control, announced Cao Yushu, vice-director and spokesman for the State Development and Reform Commission at a press conference organized by the State Council Information Office Wednesday.  
"Generally speaking, rising prices are stable and only growing at half the speed of that of income increases," said Cao. "The National Bureau of Statistics showed recently China's consumer prices were 4.4 percent higher in May than the same month last year, the fastest pace in seven years. However, the indicators are below the international danger line of 5 percent, and are still under control." He also ruled out the possibility of continuing inflation in China, but said price hikes that started last January will continue through the end of the third quarter.  
The central government's efforts to control the overheated real estate industry have produced initial results, with growth rates for property investment, new building areas and redevelopment projects all dropping slightly in the first five months of this year, Cao said.

"Those tough measures, including some administrative intervention and supervision of real estate loans, have begun to cool the fixed assets investment. However, the government still welcomes investment in medium-and-low-priced residential housing development, as long as it provides sufficient capital support and accords with the law."  
He added that the central government would not encourage the establishment of new power stations, because the worsening electricity shortage in China has been slightly exaggerated and was not a nationwide problem.  
"The current power shortage resulted from soaring energy demands brought about by the economic acceleration. The demand growth rate is 3.8 percent faster than that of the national power supply," Cao added.

## Audit Finds Funds Misuse in Central Units

By Sun Yongjian  
Auditor-general Li Jinhua revealed Wednesday that huge fiscal problems had been found in a number of central departments and units in a report to the Standing Committee of the 10th National People's Congress.  
The report, on the execution of the 2003 budget, identified 55 central government departments and units involved.

Through the investigation, seven central departments were found to have engaged in illegal use of funds worth 96.73 million yuan. Among these, the General Administration of Sports has misused 131 million yuan of funds of the Chinese Olympic Committee.  
Massive idle funds have been found in the specific funds for the development of infrastructure. Among the 43 units investigated,

23 had idle funds totalling 1.85 billion yuan by the end of 2003, equal to 64.7 percent of the budgeted appropriated funds.  
The 2003 final accounting of 24 departments of the State Council was also audited, in accordance with a ruling by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, uncovering fraud and abnormal financial dealings involving 4.05 billion yuan.

## Sino-US Air Services Expanded

By Su Wei  
An air services agreement signed last Friday between China and the US, has been hailed as a "landmark" by the US Department of Transportation. The deal will more than double the number of US airlines that may serve China, permit a nearly five-fold boost in weekly flights between the two countries over the next six years and substantially increase the freedoms of US carriers in China, including the right for US cargo airlines to establish hubs here.  
The agreement, which has been under negotiation since last autumn, becomes effective immediately, and the two sides will resume talks in 2006 to review the

aviation relationship and make further progress on liberalization, Xinhua reported last weekend.  
Under the pact, five additional airlines from each country are allowed to serve the US-China market. The US may name one additional all-cargo airline and China may name either a passenger or cargo airline to start service later this year. The four other new entrants may be either passenger or cargo carriers, with one entering the market each year in 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2010. Currently, just four US carriers – United Airlines, Northwest Airlines, Federal Express and UPS – serve China.  
The agreement allows an addi-

tional 195 weekly flights for each side – 111 by all-cargo carriers and 84 by passenger airlines – resulting in a total of 249 weekly flights at the end of a six-year phase-in period. A total of 14 of these flights will be available for new US passenger services later this year.  
The two sides also agreed to allow each country's carriers to serve any city in the other country and the agreement permits unlimited codesharing between US and Chinese airlines. Currently, Chinese airlines can serve just 12 US cities and US passenger airlines may fly to only five Chinese cities, while carriers are permitted to codeshare on flights to a limited number of cities.

## Borrowing Limits No Threat to Foreign Banks

By Su Wei  
New regulations jointly issued by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the central bank and the China Banking Regulatory Commission impose quotas on overseas borrowing by foreign banks. The regulations will take effect on May 27.  
"It is a move to comply with international practice and to honor commitments to the WTO, and not intended to put foreign banks at a disadvantage against Chinese competitors or cripple their mainland business," Zou Lin, director of the capital management department of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE), was quoted as saying by Xinhua last Friday.  
Following the implementation

of the regulations, foreign banks must apply to the NDRC for quotas if they want to borrow from overseas for more than a year and must apply to SAFE for quotas for one year and shorter-term debt.  
The size of the quotas would depend on China's prevailing balance of payments situation, the "national development situation," the requirement of Chinese companies for funds and the "historical situation and business demand of foreign banks."  
Zou emphasized that limits on foreign currency borrowing aim at stemming a rapid increase in China's foreign debt. "The treatment of foreign invested banks and Chinese banks in borrowing from abroad will be the same," he added.

Immediately after the publication of the regulation in late May, local media reported that foreign-funded companies had considerably increased foreign currency sales to domestic banks, but part of such capital inflows were believed to be speculative funds in anticipation of higher interest rates.  
Overseas debt of foreign banks and joint ventures include borrowings from overseas, interbank transactions and non-residential deposits outside China that are then brought into the country.  
Outstanding foreign currency loans from foreign banks had soared to 13 percent of the total of financial institutions in China by the end of last October, but foreign banks hold a mere 1.4 percent of the combined banking assets.

## Qinghai to Hold Fifth Trade Talks

By Yu Shanshan  
Qinghai Province in central-western China is seeking to increase investment in its rich natural resources, from China and internationally, at the fifth China Qinghai Structure Adjustment and Investment Trade Talks. The talks will be held from July 10 to 14 in Xining, the provincial capital.  
Ma Jiantang, deputy governor of Qinghai, made the announcement last Friday at a press conference in Beijing.  
This year, the key areas the Qinghai government hopes to attract invest-

ment to include hydro energy; salt, petroleum and natural gas development; mining, agriculture, animal husbandry, sources of wild animals and plants, and tourism.  
The event encompasses trade talks, high-tech exhibitions, forums and other activities.  
Any interested companies that want to attend the trade talks or visit the exhibitions could contact Wang Haifeng or Duan Xiaokun of the organizing committee by telephone on 0971-823 4455 or 824 7447, or by fax on 0971-823 4455.

### Public Security Review

Beijing police's 110 emergency hotline received 4 percent fewer calls this week than in the preceding week, with robberies and break-ins decreasing by 35 and 17 percent respectively. A total of 174 criminal suspects have been apprehended after investigations.  
Break-ins mostly occurred at Shuangjing, Anzhen, Xinyuanli and Huajiadi in Chaoyang, Niujie in Xuanwu, Qingta, Dahongmen and Lugouqiao in Fengtai, as well as Dazhongsi, Wanshousi, Ganjiakou and Qinghe in Haidian late at night and during the day,

while swindles occurred most frequently at Gaobeidian and Yazha in Chaoyang, Dongsheng and Wanshoulu in Haidian and Dahongmen and Liuliqiao in Fengtai in the evening and at night.  
Chaowai, Xiaohongmen, Shuangjing and Xiangheyuan in Chaoyang, Andingmen in Fengtai as well as Kandan and Majiapu in Fengtai were the most common places for auto-related crimes to take place, mainly at night and in the early morning.  
(Information from Beijing Public Security Bureau)

## Securities Watchdog Establishes International Advisory Council

By Yi Yi  
The China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) has set up an International Advisory Council (IAC) as a means of enhancing its relationship with the global financial industry. Announcing the move Monday, the CSRC said council is made up of experts, scholars, professionals from international financial institutes as well as experts from Hong Kong and Taiwan.  
CSRC chairman Shang

Fulin will serve as chairman of the new council. Current members include Alan Cameron, Sir Howard Davis, Linin Day, Stanley Fischer, Gary Lynch, Liang Dingbang (Anthony Neoh), Luigi Spaventa, John Thornton, Jack Wadsworth and Georg Wittich.  
The members will serve a term of two years. One or two advisory meetings will be held annually and meetings on specific themes will be convened as required.

## Over 740,000 Drug Addicts Nationwide

By Yi Yi  
There were over 740,000 drug addicts in China by the end of 2003, while currently registered drug users nationwide added up to more than 1.05 million, among which 643,000 are heroin abusers. From 1998 to 2003, a total of 1.49 million drug users have received compulsory rehabilitation, according to figures released by the Ministry of Public Security Monday.  
The ministry's anti-drug bureau noted that the local public security and related bureaus have developed multiple-level rehabilitation measures. In order to increase the rate of reha-

bilitation and to decrease the rate of re-addiction, provinces like Yunnan, Gansu and Hainan have explored new measures aimed at helping drug users quit, according to Xinhua source.  
Currently there are 583 compulsory drug rehabilitation centers nationwide with 116,054 beds. There are also 165 organizations with 143,000 beds aiming at rehabilitation through labor. Voluntary rehabilitation centers number 247, with over 8,000 beds. Meanwhile, China has established drug abuse supervising stations in 31 provinces, autonomous regions, in a network that covers the whole country.

## BOCOG Continues Hunt for Global Talent

By Su Wei  
The Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Olympic Games (BOCOG) announced its second round of public recruitment at a press conference Thursday last week.  
BOCOG vice-president Li Binghua said that the 62 vacancies include seven deputy department directors, 21 project managers, 21 project assistants, three project clerks, seven fourth-level project experts, one fifth-level

project designer and two six-level project designers. Most of the positions are only open to people with a Beijing residential permit, except the deputy department directors and fourth-level project specialists, which are open to anyone with overseas study experience.  
Those interested in applying should visit the BOCOG official website at [www.beijing-2008.org](http://www.beijing-2008.org) and complete an application before June 30.



# Domestic Car Makers Announce Major Recalls

By Sun Yongjian

Domestic joint venture auto manufacturers FAW Car Co. and Guangzhou Honda Car Co. announced sweeping recalls of potentially defective products on the Chinese market last Friday.

FAW Car, a unit of China FAW Group, will recall its Mazda 6 models produced between December 26, 2002 and March 25, 2004, China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine said Monday.

An announcement posted on Guangzhou Honda's website said it would recall 70,240 Accord 03 model cars produced from January 15 to October 29, 2003.

In its statement, FAW Car explained the recall was being made to fix technical problems discovered by Japan-based Mazda. The 6-series sedans in question could have insufficient spacing between their exhaust pipes and the protective cases around their oil tanks, creating the possibility of pressure in the tanks rising

to dangerous levels.

The Honda cars are also being recalled to deal with oil tank defects.

An executive from Guangzhou Honda who asked to go unnamed told *Beijing Today* on Tuesday that the company had implemented three previous rounds of recalls to handle other problems in its products. He added that the oil tank defects had not been found in cars made after October 29, 2003.

The Guangzhou Honda source stressed

that the recalls were launched in accordance with international standards, meaning all repairs and part replacements would be done at no charge to customers.

The recalls come on the eve of the establishment of a national recall system in China. The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine announced on March 15 this year that a system for recalling defective cars would be set up and take effect on October 1.

## Billionaires Born from Ping An IPO

By Sun Yongjian

China Ping An Insurance (Group) took in over HK\$14 billion from its initial public offering on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange Thursday, a haul likely to make a dozen shareholders billionaires overnight.

The IPO was the largest in Hong Kong this year, with 1,388 billion H shares issued at a price of HK\$10.33 per share for a total value of HK\$14.3 billion.

Four billion Ping An shares were purchased between June 14 and 17, when the company began issuing stock, and the retail tranche was 58 times oversubscribed, the *Beijing News* reported Thursday.

Twelve shareholders should become billionaires through the IPO, according to that report. The personal holdings of Liu Fang, Ping An's largest individual shareholder, will hit a total value of over HK\$3 billion.

Another four individual shareholders' stock will reach a total value of HK\$9.1 billion.

The personal holdings of PingAn chairman of the board Ma Mingzhe, however, will come in at under HK\$100 million.

London-based HSBC has replaced Shenzhen-based Shenzhen Investment Holding Co. as Ping An's largest institutional shareholder with a 9.99 percent stake in the insurance firm.



Dub Hay, Starbucks senior vice president for coffee

Photo by Su Wei

## Starbucks Committed to China Market

By Su Wei

Dub Hay, senior vice president for coffee at Starbucks Coffee Company, spoke with local media on Monday during his two-day visit to the capital. The interviews were done at Beijing Mei Da Coffee, an authorized licensee of Starbucks Coffee International.

**Question:** What do you think about the coffee market in China and what is China's role in Starbucks' overall global market expansion plans?

**Dub:** We are excited about the Chinese market, which is in an interesting position – switching from tea culture to coffee culture. Currently we have less than 100 stores in the China market. Compared with the whole Asian Pacific market, which represents the largest and oldest region outside of the United States, the Chinese market is still small in terms of store count and it will take time for us to create a coffee culture business in the land of tea. But we are making progress here and we are committed to investing in China.

**Question:** Is the coffee provided in the China market of the same quality as in other parts of the world?

**Dub:** Yes, the coffee we serve here in Beijing is equal to the coffee served in Paris, the US and Hong Kong. We offer what customers want and what is relevant to the local market. Just as we localize our products in some parts of the world, such as Malaysia and Thailand, we will continue to localize our products in the Chinese market in the future.

**Question:** Does market localization mean Starbucks will buy coffee beans from China and teach Chinese farmers to grow coffee beans in order to meet the tastes of local people?

**Dub:** It is possible for China to become one of our coffee bean production bases. Every year we receive hundreds of coffee bean samples from areas of China, such as Yunnan Province. We are committed to looking for a locally relevant product for China in the future. Currently, we have not had the opportunity to work with coffee farmers in China.



Over 150 domestic and international shipbuilding companies have docked at the Fourth China Dalian International Maritime Exhibition, which opened this Wednesday.

Xinhua Photo

## Management Buy-Out Opens New Chapter in SOE Reform

By Chu Meng

The Third Subsidiary Company of Beijing Construction Engineering Group has become the first state-owned enterprise in China to maneuver a management buy-out, a company source said on Wednesday.

The enterprise's ownership structure was transformed by enlarging the share holdings of its senior management board and attracting non-gov-

ernmental and foreign capital, Zhang Pengyue from the company's public relations center told *Beijing Today*.

"A management buy-out refers to when senior managers or the chief executive of a company purchase controlling interests in that company. Proportions of their purchases determine the scope of their rights in that company," Zhang explained.

"This reform shows we have changed

from an old-fashioned state-owned enterprise with all shares belonging to the state into a new company owned by a group of investment bodies, including private and non-governmental interests. Our entire staff, once directly employed by the government, has become free – that is to say that the employees, as well as the enterprise itself, have acquired the right to choose their own direction of development."

## Siemens Teams Up with Bird

By Sun Yongjian

The trend of consolidation continued in China's highly competitive mobile communication market with Sunday's establishment of a strategic alliance between powerful domestic player Ningbo Bird and Germany-based Siemens.

Siemens Mobile, the mobile communications group under Siemens AG, and Bird will work together to launch a new marketing offensive, selling Siemens phones at Bird's more than 30,000 outlets nationwide, the companies announced at a joint news release on Monday.

The first phase of the cooperation plan calls for 8,000 Bird sales outlets to be stocked with Siemens products within a matter of weeks. Dedicated training centers have been established to teach some 20,000 sales staff from the Bird dealer network the finer points of the German merchandise.

Siemens announced it would invest a total of 10 million euros to complete the project by mid 2005.

The companies' joint training center will be located in Shanghai, with a branch office in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province. The 450 Siemens service centers and 1,500 repair stations operating in 300 domestic cities will be integrated into the combined post-sales service network.

"Only weeks after the agreement was signed in Berlin, the partnership is already up and running. Thousands of shops have been outfitted with our products and thousands of sales staff are currently being trained," Rudi Lamprecht, Siemens Mobile president, said at a press conference in Shanghai, according to the company's press release.

With approximately 300 million mobile subscribers, China is the world's largest mobile communication market.

## Court Ruling Takes Bite out of Apple's Clothing Plans

By Chu Meng

A Chinese court judged last Friday that the bite missing from the logo of American PC maker Apple Computer was not enough to justify its registration in the domestic clothing market.

The Beijing No. 1 Intermediate People's Court ruled against an appeal filed by Apple over the 2003 rejection of its logo registration application by the Trademark Appraisal Committee (TAC) of China's State Administration for Industry and Commerce.

Last year, Apple tried to register its logo of an apple missing a bite on its right side, for use on products for China's clothing sector. The TAC denied the move that June on grounds the symbol was too similar to that of the trademarked logo of domestic company Guangdong Apples Industrial Corporation.

That company, a producer of leather clothing, shoes and suitcases, registered its logo of a whole apple in 1998.

In the recent appeal, Apple Computer asked the court to affirm its logo as a famed mark and overrule the TAC's judgment by approving its trademark application. The PC maker also charged Guang-

dong Apples on making illegal profits from infringing on its trademark rights.

"Under current trademark law, Apple Computer had little chance to win the case, since trademark logo rights apply only within a company's particular field. Domestic trademark law also takes a first-come-first-serve stance in such situations, just as in many other countries," Zhou Wangsheng, a legal scholar at Peking University, told *Beijing Today*.

According to court records, Jia Zhanying, the lawyer representing the US plaintiff, told the judges, "The logo of Apple Computer is well-known throughout the world and is different from other apple logos, since its right side appears to have a good-sized bite out of it, and it has a leaf that extends to the right."

"Although slightly different, the logos of Guangdong Apples and Apple Computer look very similar," Duan Xiaomei from the TAC's public relations department said Tuesday.

She added that if both logos were used on clothing products, many customers would not be able to tell which brand's product they had purchased.

## Bounty of Bonds Bound for Overseas Markets

By Sun Yongjian

Two Chinese policy banks have received central government approval to issue huge amounts of bonds to overseas markets, press officers of the China Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China (China Exim Bank) told *Beijing Today* on June 23.

Mr. Xu from the news office of China Development Bank told *Beijing Today* that the bank had been granted permission by the State Development Planning Commission to sell up to \$1 billion worth of bonds, with maturity of as long as 10 years, overseas for the first time since 1999. He did not reveal detail on the timing or forum for the trading, nor did he name the underwriters.

Dong Chen, a senior analyst with China Securities told Xinhua News Agency Wednesday that the two banks needed to issue bonds to back their business expansion plans, adding that the costs of issuing bonds on the domestic market can be high for banks due to rising expectations of an interest rate hike.

"If the two banks issue the bonds on the international market to meet demand for loans before an anticipated rise in US interest rates, the costs will be lower," Dong said.

## China Life Creating Assets Manager

By Sun Yongjian

After months of speculation, China's largest life insurer, China Life has confirmed its new subsidiary for the management of its assets is nearing operational status.

The assets management company of China Life will officially start business in Beijing on June 28 after seven months of trial operation. Wang Xianzhang, general manager of China Life, will be appointed chairman of the board of the subsidiary, the spokesman said.

The new company should be a powerful measure for managing the specialized operation of the insurer's funds and thereby improve China Life's payment capabilities and protect customers' interests, Wang told the media at a forum last Thursday.

The narrow channels open to investment of insurance funds as stipulated by national law could put domestic insurers in positions of great risk, Wang said. Currently, insurance funds can only go into bank deposits, trading of government bonds and financial bonds and a few other channels regulated by the State Council.

Wang recommended widening those restrictive channels as soon as possible, noting that assets management companies would be needed to guarantee the quality of insurers assets during that process.

China Life's new asset manager will be in charge of the administration of 400 billion yuan, according to company literature.

## Pump, Swipe and Go

By Su Wei

Paying to pump got easier last Saturday when a couple of local gas stations started accepting bank cards, instead of only cash, for petrol purchases.

The Shirun and Beiyuanlu stations in Chaoyang District now accept Unionpay, Visa, MasterCard and JCB cards, and the other 498 local gas stations owned by China Petroleum and Chemical (Sinopec)'s Beijing Branch are being outfitted with point-of-sale machines to allow them to take cards in the near future.

Last Friday, China National Petroleum, Sinopec's main domestic rival, announced it was going to begin accepting bank card payments at nearly 100 stations starting July.



Ms. He became the first Beijing to buy gas by bank card.

Photo by Gao Jun



# Brazil Wins WTO Cotton Case

## US Angry After Brazil Wins Cotton Case

Sao Paulo, June 18 (UPI) - The World Trade Organization ruled Friday that US cotton subsidies are unfair to Brazilian farmers, upholding an earlier decision.

Brazil's victory over the United States marks the first time a developing nation has registered and won a complaint in the WTO against an economic powerhouse.

In April the WTO handed down the same ruling, giving the United States two months to file an appeal.

Analysts predicted Friday that Brazil's victory will encourage other developing nations like West Africa, which is also a large cotton producer, to challenge subsidies.

## US Vows to Appeal Cotton Ruling

Washington, June 18 (AFP) - The United States said Friday

it would appeal a World Trade Organization decision that US cotton subsidies are unfair under global trade rules, in a case brought by Brazil.

"We have serious concerns with aspects of the final panel report and after closely viewing the report, we will appeal," said Richard Mills, chief spokesman for US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick.

Brazil said it was happy with the WTO decision and hoped it could set a precedent.

Brazilian officials estimate that global cotton prices would be 12.6 percent higher than the 1999-2002 average if it wasn't for the US subsidies. It says US data indicates American subsidies of \$12.4 billion over the 1999-2003 period.

## Cotton Case Could Impact EU Sugar Row

Sertaozinho, June 22 (Reuters) - Brazil's victory on

Friday at the World Trade Organization against US cotton subsidies may foreshadow its case against EU sugar subsidies at the WTO, a former government official said on Monday.

"Although they are distinct cases with different judicial elements, the victory in the case of sugar is practically certain, because the arguments put forth by the Europeans are very fragile," said Camargo Neto, the Agriculture Ministry's former secretary of production and sales who helped bring the two cases to the WTO.

## Analyst's Take:

*This ruling will revive the Doha Round of trade talks which broke down last year.*

*Analysts believe the ruling could serve as a landmark for developing countries and herald a major restructuring of the*

*cotton subsidy system in the US, as well as the possible abolition of subsidies for other agricultural products such as soybean and rice.*

*According to Robert Zoellick, the US will appeal the ruling and it may take several months or even years for the WTO to make a new ruling on the issue. Therefore, this current ruling may yet exert little influence on US agriculture in the short term.*

*But analysts believe that if the appeals succeed in the end, developed countries will face two choices: to comply with the WTO rules and cut down on subsidies or submit to trade punishments from the WTO. Accordingly, there has recently been a surge in appeals from developing countries on agricultural subsidies in developed countries.*

**- Chen Hua, Reporter, International Finance News**

## AMD Fights Back

California, June 22 (LA Times)--Handing a legal victory to Advanced Micro Devices Inc., the Supreme Court ruled Monday that the computer chip maker could use US courts to press rival Intel Corp. to release internal documents as part of a European antitrust investigation.

Sunnyvale, Calif.-based AMD hopes the documents will bolster its claim that Intel tries to protect its market share in Europe through anti-competitive practices including offering illegal rebates, withholding technical data and threatening computer makers that use AMD products.

The case dates to October 2000, when AMD filed a com-

plaint with the European Commission, the executive arm of the European Union, alleging unfair practices by Intel.

The commission concluded in February 2002 that AMD's complaint was unfounded, and it did not seek further evidence. But AMD had already filed a motion in the San Jose court, seeking to obtain documents from an antitrust case filed against Intel by Intergraph Corp., a Huntsville, Ala., software company that used to design computer chips.

Hundreds of thousands of Intel-related papers were sealed when that case was dismissed by an Alabama court in 2000.

## Parmalat Files for Bankruptcy Protection

Rome, June 23 (AP) - The Italian dairy giant Parmalat filed for bankruptcy protection on Wednesday to deal with a cash crunch amid allegations of accounting irregularities.

Meanwhile, prosecutors looking into the scandal ordered a search of company founder Calisto Tanzi's home.

The Parmalat scandal exploded last December when the company acknowledged a mul-

tibillion dollar hole in its balance sheet. The tangled case has expanded as prosecutors look into whether fraud was committed on a massive scale.

Parmalat said in a statement that it had applied for the government's new bankruptcy-protection plan. Hoping to rescue the company, Italy's cabinet issued a decree Tuesday that set up a streamlined bankruptcy-protection system.

## Two Arrested in AOL Spam Scheme

New York, June 23 (AP) - An America Online software engineer stole a list of 92 million customer screen names that was eventually used to send massive amounts of e-mail spam, federal prosecutors said Wednesday.

Jason Smathers, 24, was arrested at his home and was charged with conspiracy.

Smathers stole the list and sold it to a Las Vegas man, Sean Dunaway, who used it to promote

an Internet gambling operation and sold it to spammers, a criminal complaint said.

Dunaway, 21, also was arrested at his home and was charged with conspiracy. He made an initial appearance in the District Court in Las Vegas; he was released and given 30 days to appear before a US magistrate judge in New York.

Each man could face up to five years in prison and at least \$250,000 in fines if convicted.

## Barclays Buy Telegraph

London, June 23 (Bloomberg) - David and Frederick Barclay won Hollinger International Inc.'s auction of London's Daily Telegraph newspaper with a \$1.33 billion offer, bringing Conrad Black's 18 years as owner of the UK's biggest broadsheet newspaper closer to an end.

The British billionaires who publish Edinburgh's Scotsman and own London's Ritz Hotel would become the fifth proprietors of the 149-year-old paper that has traditionally supported the Conservative Party. The buyers also get the Sunday Tele-

graph and Spectator magazine, Chicago-based Hollinger International said late yesterday.

The sale caps seven months of wrangling sparked by the November discovery of \$32.2 million in payments to Black and others that Hollinger International said were unauthorized. The board ousted Black as chief executive, named him in a \$1.25 billion lawsuit and put its titles up for sale. Black said that as controlling shareholder he should have a vote on the agreement, indicating the potential for a legal battle.

## Judge OKs Wal-Mart Sex Discrimination Case

Washington, June 22 (AFP) - A federal judge allowed a sex discrimination suit against retail powerhouse Wal-Mart to go forward as a class action, the biggest such case in US history, documents showed Tuesday.

The case covers about 1.6 million women, including current and former employees at Wal-Mart, which is the largest private employer in the United States and the world's biggest retail company.

In his ruling, Judge Martin Jenkins of the US District Court in San Francisco said the class can seek punitive damages in the case, which alleges women were paid less and given fewer promotions than men.

The judge called the case "historic in nature, dwarfing other employment discrimination cases that came before," and compared it to the Brown versus Board



Photo by Photocome

of Education case on school discrimination 50 years earlier.

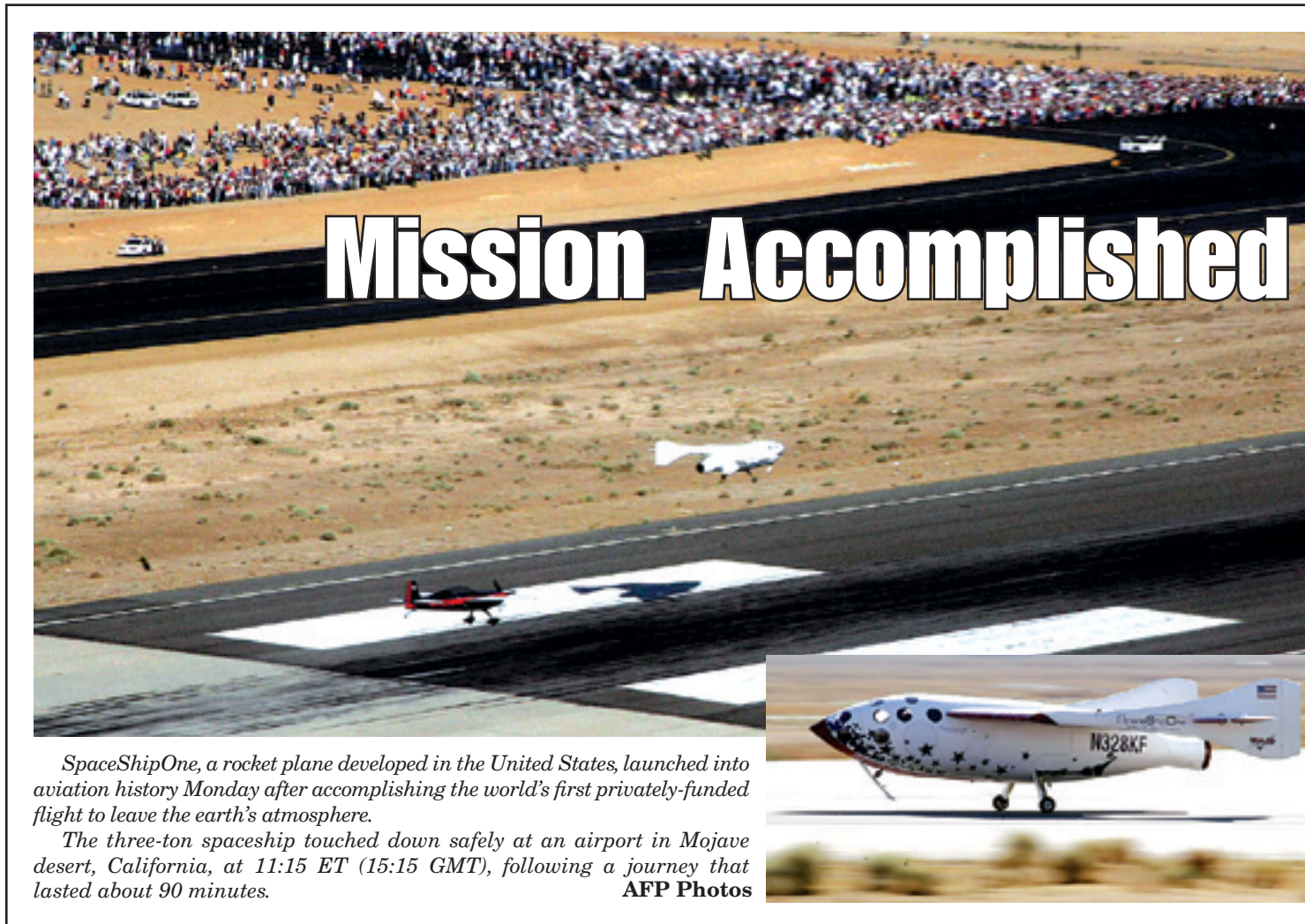
Wal-Mart chief spokeswoman Mona Williams said the substance of the case has not even come to trial, but that the company would seek to reverse the decision on class-action status.

## Thailand Recognizes China's Market Economy Status

Qingdao, June 21 (Xinhuanet) - Thailand recognizes China's full market economy status, said Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra during his meeting with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao here Monday.

He also urged other nations to do the same.

Premier Wen thanked Thaksin for this, saying it would further promote Sino-Thai relations, especially the growth of cooperation in trade and economy.



SpaceShipOne, a rocket plane developed in the United States, launched into aviation history Monday after accomplishing the world's first privately-funded flight to leave the earth's atmosphere.

The three-ton spaceship touched down safely at an airport in Mojave desert, California, at 11:15 ET (15:15 GMT), following a journey that lasted about 90 minutes.

AFP Photos

## Asian Countries to Cooperate on Energy Security

Qingdao, June 22 (Reuters) - Energy-starved Asian governments, keen to lessen their dependence on oil from the Middle East, have agreed to work together to look for new reserves in Asia with the help of private firms.

The countries will also swap information freely on their energy needs, reserves and stockpiles, according to a draft copy of the Qingdao Initiative.

These are part of a first-ever framework on energy cooperation signed on Tuesday by the 22-member Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), which also includes oil-producing nations such as Kazakhstan, Bahrain, Oman and Qatar.

Diplomats said the Qingdao Initiative was led by oil-hungry China, who drafted the pact. Some oil-producing countries from the Middle East initially objected to portions of the agreement calling for transparency, they said.

Both Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra emphasised energy cooperation during the opening of the two-day meeting at the foggy Chinese coastal resort city of Qingdao.

Other diplomats singled out the South China Sea, Myanmar and Indonesia as three potentially oil-rich areas and good places to explore for new reserves.

The group agreed in May to take steps towards a regional oil stockpile that would be used to survive

supply squeezes due to terror attacks or other threats, but that was not explicitly mentioned in the Qingdao agreement.

Oil prices shot to 21-year highs in June above \$42 a barrel for US crude on fears supplies would not be enough to meet strong demand generated by a global economic rebound.

Worries of attacks on the oil infrastructure in the Middle East, including key producer Saudi Arabia, which supplies more than 70 percent of Asia's oil imports, have also kept crude prices on the boil.

## Local Report:

*In recent years, Asian countries, especially the large energy consumers like China, Japan and South Korea, have become more concerned about dependence on oil from the Middle East.*

*The Asian countries are all aware that energy safety is a common issue confronting them. Enhanced energy cooperation is needed for the countries to be able to deal with emergencies, such as supply squeezes due to terror attacks. Another area where agreements can be struck is in local oil supply. Southeast Asian countries are increasingly becoming oil-producing countries, providing new choices for energy supply in the region.*

**- Sun Mei, Dong Xue Qing, Tan Jingjing, reporters from Xinhuanet, Qingdao.**

## German Immigration Deal Struck

F.A.Z. Weekly, June 18 - German Interior Minister Otto Schily had been waiting a long time for Thursday, and his words reflected his good mood. "It's raining outside today. But I'm filled with sunshine," the Social Democrat said.

The cause of Schily's good humor was an agreement on immigration that he struck with two leading members of the country's opposition shortly beforehand. The deal ends four years of work and removes legislative barriers that once stood imposingly high in front of Schily's goal.

The proposal will now return to the German legislative process. Because Schily has the opposition's support, it is expected to be approved sometime this summer.

The proposal is designed to clear the way for highly qualified foreigners to live and work in Germany, promote the integration of foreigners and reform laws on humanitarian refugees.

Schily removed the final barrier when he committed the federal government to covering the costs of integration courses for foreigners. The government will fund 50,000 study slots each year over a six-year period. Schily said the yearly cost would be 215 235 million euros.

The driving idea behind the proposal is demographic development. Germany is a country with low birth rates and an aging population. Immigrants are seen as a potential source of new workers who can help bear the financial load that will be placed on the country's social service systems.

But security issues came to the forefront after terrorists killed 191 people in Madrid on March 11. This focus set off

a dispute that nearly stopped the talks. The conflict pitted the Greens, the junior coalition partner, against the main parliamentary opposition - the Christian Democratic Union and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union.

As a result, Chancellor Gerhard Schröder held further talks in May. These talks led to Thursday's agreement.

## Analyst's Take:

*The employment environment for foreign students' in Germany will not be too optimistic, even after the new Immigration Law is issued.*

*Employment pressure in Germany will still be enormous after the law is issued due to the heavy economic burden of re-unification with the former East Germany.*

*However, for the more specialized talents that Germany needs urgently such as in IT, employment will become easier.*

*The employment process for Chinese students will be much simpler when the law is issued. For instance, according to the current policies of the German Authorities, Chinese students face very strict treatment in the job market because local people are always given priority in employment competition. But after the law is launched, the Chinese students should in theory enjoy equal opportunities in employment competition in Germany.*

*The issue of the new law will also be favorable for German society in improving both the age and professional structure of the country.*

**- Ni Benhong, a consultant from the Beijing Office of the German Academic Exchange Center**



# Stalls Near Silk Street Fetch Millions

By Gao Xinghua

Ten stalls inside a new building next to Beijing's "Silk Street" fetched prices as high as 3.95 million yuan at an auction this Monday.

All ten stands inside the Xiushui Street Market Building were purchased within one hour and none went for less than 1.3 million yuan.

"The prices were really surprising," an unnamed auction organizer was quoted as saying in a *Beijing Youth Daily* report on Monday.

The Xiushui Market Building, currently under construction, is located at the intersection of Xiushui Donglu and Jianguomen-

wai Avenue between the Xiushui, or "Silk Street," Market and the Guiyou shopping center.

The structure will have more than 1,000 stalls arrayed over five above ground levels and three underground floors once construction is completed later this year and it opens for business in early 2005.

More than 300 bidders attended Monday's auction, where prices covered total rent payments for five years.

As soon as the first stall went on the block, bidding got heated, jumping by increments of up to 30,000 yuan. The auctioneer constantly advised the bidders to calm down, but

prices only kept rising.

When the price hit 2.7 million yuan, the auctioneer admonished the participants, "I have been trying to tell you to calm down. You have to think about the price for yourself, because you are the ones who will have to pay it!" according to *Beijing Youth Daily*.

The gavel finally fell after a bid of 3 million yuan.

"That translates to 50,000 yuan per month. The bidder must be confident they can earn their money back. I can't believe this," murmured the auctioneer.

The highest price of 3.95 million went for an aisle stall facing an

escalator.

"The buyer is a proprietor in the Xiushui Market, like one third of the bidders. There were many bidders from Zhejiang Province and Shanghai," an auction organizer was quoted as saying by *Beijing Youth Daily*.

The sky-high prices seemed not only to surprise the auctioneer and the organizers, but also many of the bidders.

"A price of 800,000 yuan would have been acceptable," said one bidder from Shanghai. Several other participants bowed out of the bidding once they saw the price of the first lot.

## Fire Rips Through Ancient Temple

By Dong Nan

A building in the 720-year-old Huguo Temple complex in Xicheng District was badly damaged in a fire that broke out early Sunday morning.

No casualties were reported.

The fire occurred around 2 am at a hall on the western side of the temple, which was occupied by the Changqiao Street Clothing Factory eight years ago.

"I heard a sharp crack, like an electrical wire snapping, and then saw smoke rising from the top of the hall in the yard. Soon flames started pouring out," Mr. Tian, a resident in a neighboring building, told *Beijing Youth Daily*.

He and other people nearby called the local fire department, and firemen arrived within minutes. However, because the structure was in the middle of a cluster of one-storey buildings accessed by a road too narrow for the fire engines, firemen were slowed in actually reaching the site and had to pull a 300-meter long hose to the spot.

The hall was mainly built of wood and burned very quickly. Nearly the entire structure was destroyed by the time the fire was put out around 4 am.

Huguo Temple was built in the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1386). Ten sections of the complex besides the main structure, Jingang Hall, were put under key city protection in 1984.

However, the 10 other sections, including the gutted western side hall, were listed as "possible cultural relics that should be protected" in a general investigation conducted in 1999, meaning they were not classified for formal protection.

At a press conference held by the Xicheng District government on Tuesday, Xu Wei, Xicheng vice governor said there were 138 such "possible cultural relics" in the district, most of which were occupied by residents, factories or offices of various organizations.

"Most of these possible relics are in poor states of repair and located in narrow *hutong* (alleyways)," Xu said. "If they caught fire, they would be hard to put out. These hidden dangers are very serious."

He explained that only in the 1990s did the local government organize investigations into the value and use of such old sites, and that people occupying the buildings were generally unwilling to move out so they could be renovated.

Xu said that a schedule for repairing the destroyed building had yet to be set and that the cause of the fire was still under investigation.



Photo by Chen Chenchen



Xiong Bang got a warm greeting when he arrived at Capital International Airport.

Photo by Qian Bingge

## Giant Panda Goes Native

By Zhang Jianzhong

After an overnight quarantine in Beijing, Xiong Bang, a giant panda born in captivity in Japan, arrived at his new home in the Giant Panda Breeding and Research Center in Chengdu, Sichuan Province on Tuesday.

The young panda is the son of Yong Ming and Mei Mei, a couple leased by China to the Adventure World Park Zoo in western Japan's Wakayama prefecture in 1994 and 2000.

Xiong Bang was the first male

giant panda born overseas to return to China this year and is also distinguished as the first panda born by artificial conception in winter.

That facility has prepared a cozy, solo home for Xiong Bang, where he will live during his one-month quarantine before being released into the center's general panda population.

China's only research facility specializing in the endangered bears, the Giant Panda Breeding and Research Center was estab-

lished in 1987 in a northern suburb of Chengdu. The addition of Xiong Bang brings the center's panda population up to 42 animals.

From 1957 to 1982, China gave 26 giant pandas as gifts to nine countries before deciding to stop such shipments in 1985. Currently, the rare bears can only go abroad by means of leasing and exchange regulations stipulate that any cubs born in foreign countries belong to China.

## German Driver Swarmed by Angry Mob

By Zhou Ying

A German teacher who initially refused to apologize to two Chinese people after hitting them with his car Sunday afternoon found himself facing an enraged mob that forced him to say sorry in the end.

Mr. Schultz, a teacher from the Beijing German Embassy School, was taken to a nearby traffic police station for questioning following the incident after police found he was driving without a license. Beijing police also detained a Chinese man who refused to let the car in question be taken away from the scene.

Local traffic police told *Beijing Today* on Tuesday that the incident was still under investigation.

Victims Lu Fang and Mr. Zhao said the car struck them in the legs as they were crossing Xidan Avenue in Xicheng District along a marked crosswalk.

"We stopped the car, and then one of the two foreigners inside got out and threatened to beat up Zhao. But we just stood in front of the car and blocked it from driving away. Then the driver still went forward



After staying in his car, Schultz emerged to apologize to the crowd in Chinese, with assistance from an impromptu translator. Photo by Yu Jia

and pushed us back about 10 meters," recalled Lu.

She added that nearly a dozen other people on the street tried to help keep the car from leaving the scene.

When the car was stopped, it was quickly surrounded by hundreds of passers-by who demanded the two foreigners apologize. One witness told *Beijing Today* on Sunday that many people were yelling for the driver and passenger to get out of the car, but they did not move. "Both parties refused to budge, and finally a man who could speak German came in as a translator," the witness said.

Cao Peng, the temporary translator, told the traffic police that Schultz said he did have a driver's license, but forgot to take it with him. Cao also said he told Schultz that the people around the car were demanding he apologize, and he replied by saying sorry in German.



Photo by Chen Jie

Yet the crowd was not satisfied, and many cried out, "You have to say it in Chinese!" Cao quickly taught Schultz to say *dui buqi*, or sorry in Chinese, and the driver did as he was told.

Half an hour later, police forced the crowd to disperse and tried to drive the car away. However, one Chinese man refused to get out of the car's way and was taken back to a nearby police station.

*Beijing Today* called the German school on Tuesday, and a Mr. Deschuk from its administration said the school would conduct its own inquiry into the incident. "We cannot completely rely on newspaper reports, we will deal with the case after we know the facts he said."

## Welch Fever Strikes Again

By Wu Chen

China sure loves Jack Welch. Nearly 1,000 people bought tickets that started at nearly 5,000 yuan to see the former CEO of General Electric when he returned to Beijing on Tuesday for the "Jack Welch China Forum 2004" at the China World Hotel.

In the first of two local lectures, Welch talked with Li Dongsheng, chairman of the board and CEO of Chinese electronics giant TCL, on how to make it as a business leader in this country.

Welch struggled to find a good answer to Li's question of how to turn his recent acquisition, TV-maker Thomson Color Television, into a profitable enterprise, according to a *Beijing Youth Daily* report on Wednesday.

The same day, the famed business leader met with another top Chinese businessman, Ning Gaoning, chairman of the board of China Resources Corp.

The forum ran from June 21 to 24 in Beijing and Shanghai, sponsored by Beijing



Jack Welch Photo by Photocome

Hantian Honesty Auto Technology Consulting Service, *Beijing Youth Daily* and a few other domestic companies.

In Shanghai, Welch met Guo Guangchang, general manager of Shanghai Fuxing High-tech, and Liu Xiaoguang, general manager of Shanghai Shouchuang.

The *Beijing Youth Daily* report indicated that Welch's lecture fees could add up to \$1 million, not an outlandish figure considering base tickets went for 4,800 per lecture and all-inclusive VIP passes cost 30,000 yuan.

Welch arrived in Beijing last Saturday with his wife Susan and their children.

## Hippo Killing Case Causing Controversy

By Zhang Nan

A local court uncorked a swarm of unexpected controversy by opening a three-decade old case in which a young trainee at the Beijing Zoo died after being bitten by an enraged hippo.

The Beijing Xicheng District People's Court last Wednesday began investigation the accident that claimed the life of 17-year-old Liu Shulan in 1973. The court has yet to issue its final judgment.

While she was cleaning the hippopotamus pen, one of the territorial animals suddenly charged Liu and bit her on June 4, 1973. She was badly injured in the attack and died on the way to the hospital, which the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Parks, the local body that oversees the zoo, confirmed at the time.

Since there were no official policies on the books at the time on how to handle compensation in cases of student trainees being injured or killed, the case languished out of court for three decades. "The bureau promised that they would provide compensation once relevant regulations had been issued," Liu Shufen, the victim's sister, told *Beijing Today* on Tuesday.

The Xicheng court's preliminary inquiries into the case, however, hit a tangling point on the issue of whether the bureau had ever made such a promise.

Standing before the judge, Tian Qingzhu, a former clerk for the bureau's labor department who was involved in

the handling of Liu's accident, swore that such a pledge had been made. Shortly afterwards, zoo employee Shi Binta and bureau staffer Lin Boheng gave statements denying any promise.

The timing of the case has also been called into question. According to the General Principles of the Civil Law in China, cases over 20 years old do not get legal recognition. Liu's family, however, has argued that an exception needs to be made, considering their claims that the bureau did make a promise to address the issue once the legal groundwork was in place.

Responsibility for Liu's death is another point of contention, as Liu's family say she was ordered to enter the hippo pen in violation of zoo regulations restricting trainees from such close contact with the animals. They claim that while cleaning the pen, she tried to drive away some sparrows perched on a feeding trough, startling the hippo and provoking the attack.

Refuting those charges, a Beijing Zoo representative presented the court with a report signed by Tian Qingzhu stating that Liu was bitten after entering the hippo pen on her own and without authorization.

Tian appeared surprised by the report and then denied that the signature was his. "I have never seen that report before," he told *Beijing Today* Tuesday. "I told the court that it was not my signature and have already appealed to have the signature verified."

## China Open Partners with Emma Ticket

This country's premier tennis tournament, the China Open, has entered a long-term agreement with Emma Ticket, it was announced on Monday at the 2008 Olympic City.

Emma Ticket was formed in partnership by Xiaohong-mao, a subsidiary of Beijing Youth Daily, and Emma Entertainment, a global sports and entertainment company. "The commercial partnership between Emma Ticket and the China Open Organizing Committee is great news for the China Open. This long-term agreement provides the necessary ticketing infrastructure we need to guarantee a first-class event," said Sun Kanglin, secretary general of the China Open Organizing Committee.

"Emma Ticket is honored to be the exclusive long term ticketing partner of the China Open. This event will become one of the world's top tennis tournaments, featuring over

300 international players, including many of the best in the ATP. The China Open is an exciting opportunity for Emma Ticket and for the huge number of Beijing tennis fans who will attend this event", said Jonathan Krane, president of Emma Entertainment.

The China Open will be held from September 10 to 26 at the brand-new, state-of-the-art Beijing Tennis Center. Top players already confirmed include former US Open Champion Marat Safin, third ranked Carlos Moya and top ten players David Nalbandian, Rainer Schuttler and Juan Carlos Ferrero.

"Details are presently being finalized but it is confirmed that two types of tickets will be offered to fans: reserved seats at Stadium Center Court and general admission ground passes," said Zhang Yabin, vice chairman of the China Open Organizing Committee.



By Wu Chen

Last Friday, Beijing Public Transportation Corporation began to enforce a new regulation requiring all buses to use the bus lane and queue up one by one when pulling into bus stations. If they cannot pull in immediately, they must line up and wait in the right lane. Also, they're not allowed to let passengers on or off until they've pulled in in the right place.

The idea is that this will make everything more orderly, so that buses won't just stop in the middle of the road with people getting on or off wherever they can. Unfortunately, in some parts of town, such as Beijing Zoo, the railway station and many parts of the third ring road, there are ten to twenty bus routes, so there are many buses queuing up to pull in to their correct stop. This has been causing severe traffic jams and delays, especially during rush hour.

At one point last Saturday, about 100 buses were lined up between Beijing Zoo and the National Library. Many passengers had to get off and just walk to their destination, but not before arguing with the bus drivers and conductors for quite a long time to let them off. The problem has also made it harder for many people to get to work on time, not to mention raising tempers as the summer temperatures climb up.

On Tuesday this week, an angry passenger called Beijing Public Transportation Corporation, complaining that he'd got on a bus and a drive that used to take five minutes took 50 minutes and the conductor refused to let him off before moving into the station.

Many passengers have asked for help from the traffic police, who have just suggested that they try the subway, taxis or smaller buses.

As reported in *Beijing Youth Daily* on Wednesday, Beijing Public Transportation Corporation has said it's considering solutions to this problem.

**Wang Xinsheng, Deputy General Manager of Beijing Public Transportation Corporation** Buses pulling into their stops in a disorderly fashion affects the whole vehicle flow of our roads. The buses might take up two or more lanes when stopping for passengers before. Places where the buses don't pull in properly are famous for their traffic jams.

# I Wanna Get Off!

This situation must be dealt with before the 2008 Olympic Games.

After the enforcement of orderly pulling in and out, the other lanes that were taken up by the buses in the past can be cleared so that the transportation capacity of the road can be increased and the traffic jams can be moderated to a certain extent.

We're also taking steps to deal with this new problem. We have already moved the Tian'anmen east stop 40 meters to the east, so that the stop can accept three to four more buses at one time. We have also asked the drivers to try not to block the crossings in order to let other vehicles pass.

We will also execute five more measures: enlarging the parking area for buses; building "harbor-style" bus stations if conditions permit; using non-bus lanes properly to pull out of the bus stops; prolonging the time allowed for using the bus lane; and increasing the number of fast buses with fewer stops.

The key problem now is that most bus stops in Beijing are too small and cannot satisfy the demand of the bus flow. To solve the problems, the government should organize relative units together to discuss proper methods. Our company cannot solve them alone.

**Shi Qixin, professor from the Institute of Transportation of Tsinghua University**

The government and the whole of society should insist on the principle of "Bus Priority". The way to do this is to establish a series of advanced Bus Priority Systems, including priority in passing, priority in using the special lane and priority at crossings. The problems that are appearing now need relative units to solve them together. For instance, the Public Transportation Corporation could adjust the time schedule of different routes. It should be a systematic and long-term project.

**Mr. Liu, bus conductor for Beijing Public Transportation Corporation**

In the past, we could cover our route five to six times every



About 100 buses were lined up between Beijing Zoo and the National Library last Saturday

day. Now we can only do it three times. We used to be able to complete 70% of the target stops, but since the enforcement of the new regulation, we can only complete 50% every day. It causes great losses on our route and also for the whole corporation. But I think the new regulation will ultimately affect the interests of passengers. It's not flexible enough.

**Mr. Zhang, an employee of Beijing Public Transportation Corporation**

The public transportation situation, including the setting of

bus stops, the number of bus routes and so on, is not suited to this new regulation. Problems are inevitable. Actually, our managers are all promoted from common bus drivers step by step and they know the transportation situation in Beijing. I don't know why they didn't raise the problems the new regulation would cause before the government decided to enforce it.

Many passengers complain about traffic jams wasting their time. But at least they can get out. However, our bus drivers have to stay in the buses without

having meals, or being able to go to the toilet. Besides, many passengers cannot understand that the bus drivers can do nothing but obey the regulations of the government, and they often get angry with the drivers and conductors, which is quite unfair. If the drivers let the passengers get off outside the bus stops, they themselves have to pay the penalty and their salary is already very low.

**Ms. Wang, a bus conductor**

It generally took us one and a half hours to finish a round in the past, but since the enforcement of the new regulation it takes nearly four hours. These days, we work over time almost every day. Some passengers who don't understand that we are only the executors of the policy curse us drivers and conductors. We have nothing to do but try our best to explain the new regulation to them.

**Lu Yong, manager of a private company, and a car owner**

I really feel the road is more open than ever these days and it saves me a lot of time, which is quite precious for me. I've been looking at the bus stops by Madian Qiao, where there are many buses that often caused traffic jams in the past. It always used to take me a long time to pass there, but now the situation is much better since the other motor vehicle lanes are not jammed any more. However, I also found that in some places the buses queue in a long line and move quite slowly. It may be inconvenient for the passengers.

**Miss Yao, a passenger**

I don't think the policy-makers have investigated the real situation or that they thought about the problems this regulation would cause, not to mention ways of solving them. This policy won't benefit the transportation situation of Beijing. It takes me more time on the way to work and what is worse is that I cannot accurately estimate the time. What they should do now is consider the interests of passengers and come up with some methods to solve this awful situation.

**Mr. Cao, a passenger**

This policy of the Beijing government is all for the convenience of private car owners and to encourage more and more people to buy cars. This may be good for the economy, but most common people don't have enough money to buy their own cars and they have to depend on public transportation. If the government doesn't consider their interests, the problem will get worse and worse.

**Chen Yu, a passenger, editor from the Computer Network Information Center of the Chinese Academy of Sciences**

I can understand the policy of the government and I'm sure it will benefit most of the people, although I also came across a traffic jam when I went to work on Monday. In the past, the buses pulled in to the bus stops without any order, which could easily cause traffic accidents. So the enforcement of this regulation is a good thing in that regard for everyone. I can also accept the temporary problems of traffic jams, but if the situation doesn't get better eventually, I don't think I'll be able to bear it.

**Yuki, Hong Kong student studying at Peking University**

This regulation is a good thing. The way the buses in Beijing used to pull up to the stops caused chaos. In Hong Kong, all the buses have to queue up to pull in to the stops and they have to stick to the bus lanes. However, there are not so many bus routes in Hong Kong, and since the doors for getting on and off are separated, the time it takes to pull in and out isn't so long. Although the enforcement of the regulation in Beijing is causing some problems now, it's still a good regulation.

## Patients' Private Parts Paraded

By Gao Xinghua

A series of operations at West China Hospital of Sichuan University in Chengdu were filmed and relayed to a big international academic meeting, which was held in Chengdu last Friday. The audience at the Second Forum of Alimentary Canal Rehabilitation and Reconstruction watched as specialists from England, Japan, Hong Kong, and Singapore performed the operations. The only trouble is that the patients didn't know they were being filmed and that hundreds of people were watching.

A relative of one of the patients happened to be at the meeting, and found it excruciatingly embarrassing, seeing all the people pointing and commenting on his relative's body during the operation as it flashed up on the screen.

Last Saturday, the relative phoned *West China City Daily* to complain about what the hospital had done. They said the hospital hadn't asked anyone's permission. The patients hadn't even been informed that they were going to be live on camera. He insisted on anonymity considering that the patient was still being cared for at the hospital.

It is rare to record operations in the hospitals in Chengdu, but it's common for medical students to observe as examinations and operations are carried out. Though patients don't necessarily object to this, they're not always happy about it.

Last week, Miss Li entered a hospital in Chengdu city for an

examination. She later said she felt embarrassed and angry about the discussion of her disease among the surrounding viewers. Most of them were students, and their director explained every detail of her condition.

This teaching course proceeded throughout the checkup but eventually she couldn't keep quiet any more and complained loudly. The doctor swiftly led his students away.

Recently there was also a lawsuit in Qingdao regarding a girl's miscarriage being demonstrated to student doctors. The hospital was sued.

However, facing this public examination, it seems most patients choose to keep silent. But are more people going to start complaining about what some see as an invasion of privacy?

**A relative of the patient, quoted in West China City Daily**

We were not told that the operation would be recorded. We didn't pay less than what the hospital required. Their action is a violation of the patient's privacy. Many people attending the meeting thought the relay was rather strange. A staff member of the hospital even asked people to keep it all a secret, especially from relatives of the patients.

**Madam Ai, a member of staff at the public relations office of West China Hospital**

The purpose of the meeting was academic intercommunication. We had no intention of leaking out the patients' names or any other personal informa-

tion. The people at the meeting are only interested in learning how to cure these patients as well as we can.

All the professionals present at our forum are top academics from around the world, and the recording was only for research usage. Only the parts of the body being operated on were shown. It was unnecessary to show any other parts of the patients' bodies.

Besides, the sphere of the people attending the meeting was very strictly controlled. It's impossible a relative of one of the patients was at the meeting. That report in the media is just a piece of fake news. Until now, we haven't received any complaints from our patients.

**One leader of West China Hospital, quoted in West China City Daily**

The recording is not a violation of the patients' privacy. The patients' heads could not be seen, and anyway all the people at the meeting were professionals in the field of medical research. Showing the recording to them doesn't count as a violation of privacy.

As for students observing operations, it's an international custom to show them the operation process. Our hospital should be responsible for their training.

**A director of The Third People's Hospital in Chengdu, quoted in West China City Daily**

We pay more attention to protecting our patients' privacy. Any observation by our

students or reporters must depend on consent from our patients. They will be informed about what will happen, and every step must be agreed to by them.

We are responsible for the protection of our patients. This is a basic part of showing respect to them.

**A doctor from West China Hospital**

They are all medical students, and our hospital is responsible for teaching them. Are there any hidden facts that should be kept from them?

**Doctor Hou from Changle People's Hospital in Shandong Province**

Usually, all the student doctors are required to keep quiet when observing an examination or operation. We show full respect to our patients, and the patients have the right to choose the doctors they want. Many hospitals like ours have a responsibility to teach and train the future doctors. All the knowledge and skills should be inherited in a good way. We also hope that the patients understand and are happy to cooperate with us in this process.

**Deng Yong, a lawyer from Ditai Law Firm in Chengdu, quoted by Xinhua**

The hospitals should protect the privacy of their patients. It is a violation of their privacy to record the operation if there is no agreement from the patient. Although it's for the purpose of academic intercommunication, it's still contrary to the notions of justice and fairness.



Buses queue up in Gongzhufen

Photos by Cui Jun



By Zhou Ying

The Research Institute of Rural Education has just released a report which found that the average rate of children dropping out of school in rural areas of China is 40%, far higher than the government required maximum. The Nine-year Compulsory Education Law stipulates that the number of pupils dropping out of school should be controlled to within 3%.

"In our school, the total number of students in the first year of junior middle school was about 110," said one teacher from Dongfeng town in Jilin Province. "There were only 30 left just three years later."

"We have to drag many students who've dropped out back to the classroom if the leaders conduct an inspection of our school," said another teacher from a remote area of Jilin. "In this way it seems the dropout rate isn't so high. It is quite common in rural areas to fabricate the numbers."

#### A high percentage

Experts from the Research Institute of Rural Education conducted an investigation into 17 junior middle schools in six country towns in Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang, Henan, Shandong, and Hubei.

Generally speaking, the towns in the less developed provinces have the highest dropout rate. However, experts say the real problem areas are towns with middle-level economic development, because only the less developed towns have access to financial support from the government. These schools are better able to pay the teachers' salaries. The dropout rate can also vary significantly within the same province, from single figures in larger towns to over 60% in smaller towns.

The Research Institute found that the highest dropout rate in the schools they looked at was 74.37%, while the lowest was 5%. The survey shows that most students quit their studies when they are in junior middle school. The dropout rate in grade one in junior middle school was less than 10%; the rate in grade two was just above 10%; but the rate in grade three was about 19.45%.

"There are two principal reasons why students choose to quit school in grade three," Mr. Han, a teacher in Shuangliao town in Liaoning province, told *China Youth Daily*. "One is that some students fall behind, and they know there is no hope for them to get into senior middle school. The other is that some parents believe it is better to earn money or go in for farming than study."

Zheng Xumin, a grade two student in junior middle school in Na Danbo town in Jilin province, told *China Youth Daily* that three of his classmates dropped



The average rate of children dropping out of school in rural areas of China is 40%, far higher than the government required maximum, 3%.

out of school in April this year.

"On average, one person leaves school every ten days," he said. Zheng also recently dropped out. Now he has nothing to do but stroll around. "Actually my family can afford the tuition fees, but I don't want to study anymore because I cannot catch up with my classmates." Zheng has no idea about

what he'll do with his future.

#### Just bored?

Yuan Guilin, a professor at Northeast Normal University and a member of the Research Institute of Rural Education, is worried about the problem. According to the survey, about 53% of the students who left school did so just because they felt bored with their studies, not because of financial problems.

"Nine out of ten of our students drop out because they are not interested in studying. It's because their parents do not know how to deal with it," Ms. Zhang, a teacher in Shuangliao town in Jilin province, said to *China Youth Daily*.

She added that at this point, the Nine-year Compulsory Education Law was in a hopeless situation. Part of the problem is that the textbooks in most schools seem obscure. Students feel they are not learning anything relevant to their lives.

"What they learn, they cannot put into practice, and there are few art classes, such as music or drawing," said Mr. Han. "Also, there

are a lot of restrictions on the students, so they lose interest."

Professor Yuan Guilin said there was a big difference between the city and countryside in terms of education infrastructure, and most schools cannot reach the standard established by the government. Among the towns investigated in the survey, only a few of their schools have computer rooms, so the fact that books in most of the schools are out of date and considered boring is a problem as textbooks remain the principal teaching material.

"It is hard to attract students' attention just through the teachers. There is no language lab in our school, and students do not have access to the library. Also, there are less than 30 computers with poor software in our school," said Ms. Zhang.

According to the investigation, another reason for the high dropout rate in rural areas is that the distribution of schools is unreasonable. In many rural areas, the local governments have integrated different schools into

a single school per town, theoretically in order to assist organization and enhance the quality of education. However, this has also resulted in substantial inconvenience for families.

The father of one female student who has dropped out of school in Dandong town in Jilin Province complained that there used to be a school nearby in the past, but the new integrated school is too far away.

"It took about an hour and a half to get my daughter to school by bike. In addition, we had to rent somewhere for her to stay, because the school does not provide accommodation. In all, the costs were twice as high as before."

A further problem is that jobs are no longer so easy to come by even for people who have made it through school or for graduates of technical schools.

#### Develop new courses

Experts believe that tackling this problem will require joint efforts from the whole of society. "I think the government should launch regulations aimed at the lo-

cal problems in rural areas," Professor Yuan suggested. He also said the government should look at ways of broadening the financial support for education, such as encouraging people to invest in it.

Some educational experts have suggested that the authorities should offer education that's relevant to local needs, such as practical technical training courses that might be more useful than what students learn from their textbooks. The survey found that in order to combat the dropout problem, some local officials had launched skill classes for students considered unlikely to pass their school exams. Students in these classes have to meet less strict requirements, but they can still get a diploma.

The survey also indicates that there's not much point in stipulating acceptable maximum rates of school dropouts, as the conditions vary so much in different areas. The report advises a more scientific inspection system depending on local development and circumstances.

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# Criminals Infiltrate Cop School

“When you graduate, you will work in the police, the procuratorate or the court and you will be able to help us,” said Feng Xiaochun, the leader of the gang.

In 2001, shortly after the beginning of the new semester, Yang Guanghui, Guo Peng, Song Jifeng, Sun Yonghong and other members from the gang went to Taiyuan to visit their brothers, report on recent developments regarding the gang and pass on instructions from their boss.

**By Wang Fang / Wang Lei**  
The investigation of what initially appeared to be just a traffic accident in 2003 in Zhongyang County, Shanxi Province, has led to the exposure of an underworld gang named Swallow and its protective umbrella in the local police bureau. The investigation also discovered that the gang had successfully planted 15 of its members in police school and that they'd been studying there for almost three years.  
**My classmates were gang members?**

When *Nanfang Daily* asked Li Libing, a student from Taiyuan Police Vocational Academy (formerly called Taiyuan People's Police School) about his classmate Li Peng, he replied, “Li Peng? I haven't seen him for almost a year.”  
In 2000, Li Libing and Li Peng both entered the police school, majoring in Public Security Management. Li Libing saw Li Peng as a quiet person. “When he was in the school, he always stayed with the other students who also came from Zhongyang County. They all spoke in their own dialect which I could not understand at all.”  
Even the captain of the group to which Li Peng was assigned,

Yan Fengyuan, did not know that much about Li Peng. He only knew that Li Peng's father was the Secretary of the Discipline Inspection Commission of Zhongyang County Police Bureau.  
Yan Fengyuan said there was another student called Wang Pengfei who was also from Zhongyang County and that he had left one year earlier than Li Peng.  
When the two students left the course, it didn't attract that much attention among the remaining pupils. “At the beginning, there were more than 70 people in our class and people left for different reasons, such as being transferred to other majors or just because they wanted to do something else. There are only 30 people now,” said Li Libing.  
However, the police cadets were shocked when they found out the truth about Li Peng and Wang Pengfei.  
At the beginning of June, 2004, the Police Office of Shanxi Province revealed to the public that the police had successfully unearthed the case of the Swallow gang in Zhongyang County. They revealed that members of the group had been studying in the Taiyuan police school.  
“We could not imagine that they were members of a gang,”

said one of the students. “How did they infiltrate the school?”  
**A cunning plan**  
The Swallow gang started in 2000 in Zhongyang County and the name was borrowed from the nickname of the leader, Feng Xiaochun.  
“At that time, most of the members in the gang were just junior high school kids from Zhongyang No. 2 Middle School,” said gang member Zhang Kaizhen (pseudonym). Zhang Kaizhen was a low level member of the gang and many other members were his primary and junior high school classmates.  
In 2001, it was the time for Zhang and his peers in the gang to take the Entrance Examination for Senior High School. Feng Xiaochun persuaded them to try getting into the police school. “When you graduate, you will work in the police, the procuratorate or the court and you will be able to help us,” said Feng. His thoughtful, long-term consideration was recognized by the foot soldiers around him.  
Li Peng was one of the members who wanted to get into Taiyuan People's Police School. However, his total score in the exam was only 200, far lower than the pass mark of 360. Zhang Kaizhen recalled, “I heard

that his father, Li Baoquan, the Secretary of the Discipline Inspection Commission of Zhongyang County Police Bureau, helped him to obtain the score of another student whose name was also Li Peng.”  
However, when Li Peng went to Taiyuan to take the interview and physical examination, the judge in the examination board saw the photo on the register sheet did not look like him; also, his eyesight did not match the required standard.  
But after Li's father spent two days in Taiyuan, Li Peng was accepted by the police school.  
The exam set by Taiyuan People's Police School was easy for Wang Pengfei, another core member of the Swallow gang. He got a total score of more than 500, which meant he qualified for the one available Criminal Investigation major offered by the school.  
Besides Wang Pengfei and Li Peng, five other members of the Swallow gang were accepted at the same time by Taiyuan People's Police School, majoring in criminal investigation, public security management and law.  
While these “moles” studied in the police school, their boss and other gang members often went to visit them.  
In 2001, shortly after the beginning of the new semester, Yang Guanghui, Guo Peng, Song Jifeng, Sun Yonghong and other members from the gang went to Taiyuan to “visit their brothers, report on recent develop-

ments regarding the gang and pass on instructions from their boss,” said Zhang Kaizhen.  
**Domino effect**  
“If Zhang Haiming had not been killed, the Swallow gang would not have been exposed. Its 15 moles in the police school and its protective umbrella of Liu Zhisheng, the director of Zhongyang County Police Bureau, and Li Baoquan, the Secretary of the Discipline Inspection Commission of the Bureau would not have been exposed,” said Zhang Fuyuan, the brother-in-law of Zhang Haiming. Zhang Fuyuan is the former head of the criminal investigation branch of the police section of Luliang Prefecture. He worked in Zhongyang County Police Bureau for over 10 years.  
Around 1:05 am on June 25, 2003, a man named Hao Bingsuo went to Zhongyang County Police Bureau and confessed that he had accidentally killed Zhang Haiming in a car crash.  
After hearing of the death of his brother-in-law, Zhang Fuyuan went straight to Zhongyang County. Near the crime scene, he found blood and the head and shell of a bullet which made him suspicious about the reported cause of death. He reported this to Zhao Ping, who was in charge of the criminal investigation in Lvliang Prefecture.  
**The protective umbrella**  
On July 9, 2003, experts from the Provincial Police Office came to Zhongyang County and began their investigation of the accident. They concluded that this was a murder, not the traffic accident claimed by Hao Bingsuo.  
It also emerged that Zhang Haiming, who was in charge of loans at the local Agricultural Bank, used to have close relations with the leaders of the Swallow gang, one of whom was Hao Bingsuo. But there had been a falling out which led to the murder of Zhang. The investigators learned this from the confession of gang member Yang Guanghui.  
Evidently Hao Bingsuo had turned himself in assuming his associates Liu Zhisheng and Li Baoquan could help him avoid any serious charges. While he was in detention, Hao was even allowed to use his mobile phone to get the latest news. He also received guests and was allowed out for dinner. Now the gang members are in detention, awaiting trial.  
**Screening the candidates**  
How come so many members of the Swallow gang were able to get into police school?  
Pan Yongjun, the head of the Students' Section of Taiyuan Police Vocational Academy explained. “We have three requirements for new students. First, they have to pass the political examination, which they cannot if they have a criminal record. Second, their scores should be around 360 and finally they have to pass the physical examination.”  
The most important part of the screening process is the political examination, Pan emphasized. “Normally, we send the political examination report to the local police station in a sealed envelope and ask the police there to stamp it after confirming its contents.”  
However, the students in the police school said that the political examination report was sent to them and they were asked to take the report to the local police station.  
“Things are different from the planned economy times. At that time, we only accepted a certain number of students according to the requirement from above, so we were able to go to the school, the residents' committee and the local police station of our students to conduct the political examination,” said Pan. He said that under the market economy, it is impossible for the school to carry out individual political examinations for as many as 1,000 new students every year. They have to trust the local police station for this work.  
“It is the flaw in the political examination which helped the members of the Swallow gang to infiltrate our police school,” said an expert from the criminal investigation general division of Shanxi Police Office remarked. “Now the police school is trying to enroll as many students as it can as one student will pay about 4,000-5,000 yuan to the school each year. The economic aspect needs to be taken into account.”

**By Chu Meng**  
An illegal pyramid sales organization named Omanli has been shut down in Chongqing. The company had drawn over 2000 students into its “sales” structure from 13 different universities in Shanxi, Hebei, Hubei and Yunnan provinces, said a spokesman for the local public security department this week.  
Premier Wen Jiabao said earlier this month, “we have to crack down on illegal pyramid selling and action should be taken by universities to prevent students from participating in such illegal activities.” The case in Chongqing was the first involving so many students. Pyramid sales schemes have been on the rise in recent years, despite efforts to crack down on the practice.

Pyramid selling, also known as multi-level marketing (MLM), is a method of selling products through a multi-level hierarchy of salespeople. It arrived in China from overseas during the late 1980s but the authorities in China soon decided that it was too easy for the system to be abused so they banned it. Direct sales were also banned in 1998, on the basis that it was too hard to differentiate from pyramid sales. According to China's WTO commitments, this ban will be lifted later this year, although the authorities are promising careful regulatory measures.  
**Illegal pyramid selling**  
Since early in 2003, various multi-level marketing activities, especially pyramid schemes, have seen a revival in new forms and with new features.  
From the end of 2003, residents in Yubei district of Chongqing started noticing groups of students who all lived together in a local apartment building with its windows sealed. It later turned out they were members of the Omanli pyramid selling organization and that they had been deceived into gathering in Chongqing from all over the country.  
Chen Renjie (pseudonym), is a senior student of a university in Wuhan. He said he went to Chongqing early this year because his classmate Wang Lin (pseudonym) told him he had found him a job there that could earn him a monthly salary of more than 1,000 yuan. Wang said he could get Chen a similar job, so without knowing it, Chen agreed to join the pyramid selling organization. As a new member, Chen was asked to pay 5,000 yuan as a “cash pledge,” of which 3,800 yuan was for the purchase of a set of the organization's “products,” and

## Pyramid Scheme Traps Students



The students and their “products”

Photo by Photocom

1,200 yuan was for his accommodation. But Chen has never received the products he was required to buy as a new recruit.  
According to the rules of the organization, a member who has brought in at least six new members can become a junior sales manager, and will be upgraded to senior sales manager when he has brought in 60 members. Organization leaders take 60 per cent of the money they have fraudulently obtained from members. The rest filters down to the various managers.  
“Those students receive endless propaganda from superiors in this organization several times every day after their arrival, even though they find themselves living in poor conditions and eating rotten food,” according to Chen Renjie. “The organization stipulated that no salespeople are allowed to go out on their own, and they are forbidden to have external contacts or reveal the truth about the organization. All those deceived into the organization are from outside Chongqing, and they are forced into this concentration camp lifestyle. They never receive any salary, and have no money to return home.”  
The public security bureau found during its investigation that Omanli did indeed operate in a more discreet and secretive way than other pyramid schemes which had been exposed previously.  
Chen said Omanli followed one basic principle, which was

to use a get-rich-quick myth as bait to lure university students into buying commodities at a price much higher than their real value. When someone gets involved, they became anxious to pass it “downline” as soon as possible. So deceiving more friends and contacts into joining was the only way for those trapped in the system to get their money back. It also became a strong driving force for them to exaggerate pyramid sales and desperately find new members. Because of this abnormal motivation, pyramid selling organizations usually can expand at an astonishing speed.  
Police investigating the Omanli case found that most of the student victims were surprisingly naive and had little financial sense. Once they fell into the trap, they were usually reluctant to try and escape without regaining what they had lost, and were willing to take risks to continue with the venture.  
**Severe crackdown**  
Since 1999, according to government statistics, several million people in China have participated in various forms of illegal pyramid selling activities. The authorities say the fallout from the these activities poses a serious threat to social order. After being taken in by pyramid schemers, people have proved willing to cheat their own relatives and friends to get out of their situation.  
At the beginning of 2004, industrial and commercial ad-

ministrative departments and public security organs in areas where there were believed to be pyramid selling schemes began a program to crack down on the practice. From January to July, they have investigated and dealt with 1,219 cases and destroyed 1,183 pyramid sale organizations.  
In September last year, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce (SAIC) issued a circular demanding a national campaign to increase efforts to destroy illegal pyramid selling activities. It emphasized that the campaign should focus on the most severely afflicted regions, which were Guangdong, Hunan, Henan, Hainan, Hubei, Sichuan, Yunnan, Shanxi and Hebei provinces.  
**Direct sales to be legalized in China**  
Though multi-level marketing operations such as direct sales are common in other countries, China's government still considers it illegal. According to the authorities, the Chinese market economy and the consumption concepts of ordinary Chinese people are still not as mature as in more developed countries.  
However, the government does recognize the difference between pyramid and direct sales. An official from the State Administration for Industry and Commerce said pyramid schemes aim at making profits through a pyramid-shaped network formed by bringing in more and more recruits.

American-based Amway Corporation has been noted for its success in direct sales in China. China's ban on direct-pyramid sales in 1998 greatly affected the company's business. Statistics show that Amway (China) Company suffered losses of 200 million yuan that year. To maintain its business in China, Amway had to switch from direct selling to a retail store business, in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations.  
Amway has never stopped saying that its direct sales are above suspicion. During the Fifth China International Fair for Investment and Trade, held in September 2003, Amway President Steve Van Andel emphasized, “pyramid sales and Amway's direct sales are two different things. The former refers to a fraudulent selling method through a pyramid-marketing network, which is illegal in any market. Direct sales is one of the oldest methods of selling merchandise.”  
Andel noted that many countries have special statutes on the direct selling industry. He also said that, according to China's commitment to the WTO, China is already working hard to produce legislation concerning direct sales.  
The government is expected to lift a ban on direct selling and set down rules governing distribution modes within the third year of its WTO accession. And a draft regulation governing foreign-funded direct selling companies is expected in September.



# Biting the Hand that Protects

By Sheng Mingming / Le Qian

Zhou Litai is a self-taught lawyer who has represented over 4,000 cases for injured factory workers. He's won many of the compensation lawsuits he's filed, culminating in judgments that are sometimes worth hundreds of thousands of yuan. All this has gained him the name of "protector of peasant workers".

Unfortunately, not all his clients are that grateful. Quite a few of them skip town with their compensation payouts after Zhou has won their cases for them, without paying him a cent. A recent lawsuit has brought Zhou into the spotlight again but this time it was aimed at peasant worker Liu Chaozheng who ran off without paying the due attorney fees of more than 10,000 yuan.

"I'll bring more to court!"

"I'll bring more to court who don't pay their due attorney fees," says Zhou unrepentantly.

Some run-away clients owed attorney fees of tens of thousands of yuan, and some didn't even pay back the traffic expenses Zhou's law office had run up, let alone the legal costs.

"A factory worker named Mi Guodong from Xining, Qinghai Province lost a hand during his work. He begged me to take up his case. I did and eventually won the lawsuit for him with compensation of over 458,000 yuan. While I and several other lawyers in my office spent tens of thousands of yuan traveling here and there to settle the lawsuit, Mi fled with all the compensation he got, sold his house in Xining and changed all his telephone numbers, leaving us totally in the dark with no one to cover our costs!" Zhou can't help raising his voice as he tells this story, anger obviously written on his toilworn face.

According to Zhou, in the past eight years, about 399 peasant workers he represented and helped win their compensation lawsuits have run away without paying any attorney fees; he reckons he's owed about 5,000,000 yuan. Because of this, Zhou's law office has been in debt for years.

## Taking on the system

For the past eight years, Zhou has fought for the rights of China's migrant workers, meeting people with tales of exploitation, 18-hour shifts, dormitory lock-downs, dog attacks and decrepit machinery. The people come to him because they have no money to pay for a lawsuit and most legal offices wouldn't accept their cases. Because of his unusual speciality, Zhou's stories have often made headlines in the press.

But despite his current renown, Zhou, 45, came to the law via a roundabout route.

Zhou grew up in a poor village family in Kaixian County in Chongqing. He was yanked out of school by his parents in the third grade and put to work on the land. When he



He's angry.

was 17, his father sent him to Tibet as a soldier where he served for five years.

In 1979, he returned to Chongqing but again had to leave home because his family was too poor to feed him. Zhou found work in a brick factory in Hunan Province, making less than a hundred yuan a month lugging around bags of coal and bricks.

A friend encouraged Zhou to learn a skill. Tired of dead-end jobs, he took to law, partly, he said, because he was so infuriated by the working conditions in factories that he had experienced. He spent nights studying law and eventually earned his license in 1986 when he set up a little office in Kaixian.

## Legal crusader



Giving them a hand



Zhou and his clients

In May 1996, a husband and wife, both workers at the Happy Toy Factory in Shenzhen, were killed by a delivery truck while walking to work on the factory grounds. The factory denied responsibility for their deaths, leaving

the couple's three young children and their aging parents penniless.

The grandparents were from the same town as Zhou. They came to him as a last resort. No lawyer in Shenzhen would take such cases for the migrant workers.

Zhou sued the Happy Toy Factory and won 330,000 yuan – a groundbreaking decision because it was such a large award and because it was unusual for a factory to be held responsible for paying damages to the family of deceased workers.

After that, Zhou decided to devote his career to helping injured workers, a practice which has catapulted him to national prominence.

Zhou decided to move to Shenzhen in 1997 because it attracts so many migrant workers.

Young people from farms deep inside China flock there for factory jobs, often earning less than 400 yuan a month. They labor as cogs in a machine, but sometimes the machine spits them out: dozens of workers in Shenzhen are injured every day. Many of the injured lose a hand or a limb. The factories pay them a pittance and send them back out onto the streets. New arrivals from the countryside, eager for work, soon take their places.

Before Zhou's name became known, these migrant workers had virtually no legal recourse. But after his first successful case, he found there was an endless number of people seeking compensation from former employers. Zhou has found himself hauling factory owners and bureaucrats into court and demanding compensation for injured workers on a regular basis. And he's winning.

The house Zhou rents as his home and office in a rough neighborhood in Longgang district in the outskirts of Shenzhen, has become a makeshift home for many of his clients. Inside the four-story building at the moment live some 40 factory workers – mostly young men who were injured at work and have nowhere to go. Days are spent watching TV, playing pingpong on the roof, playing cards on their bunk beds, or using Zhou's office computer. They live four to a room and eat in one mess hall. Zhou's sister and her husband cook their meals. All together more than 200 injured workers have lived in the house over the past few years. Running the building costs about 300,000 yuan a year in rent, food and water.

Zhou certainly doesn't resemble a well-known lawyer. He pads around the apartment building in a blue sweatshirt and purple slippers. He's supposed to receive 15-20% of each client's court awards. But after so many clients have absconded with his fees, Zhou has had to take action. "If it wasn't for the money people have donated, my cause would have been aborted long ago," he says bitterly.

## Zhou responds

Zhou Litai's case against Liu Chaozheng was lodged in February 2004 and heard on March 31. Liu was ordered to pay Zhou's law office 14,800 yuan in attorney fees within 10 days. Zhou told *Beijing Youth Daily* that he now has plans to go after other clients who have taken off without paying him.

**Q:** *It seems strange that your clients should run away without paying you anything.*

**A:** By April 1, 2004, I had represented 4,698 cases for injured factory workers from all over the country, almost 95% of which were compensation lawsuits. Most of the migrant peasant workers lack moral and legal consciousness. Once they got the compensation – usually a big sum they had never before imagined – they thought it was all theirs, begrudging even a penny for the legal costs. So they chose to skip town without paying their due obligation.

**Q:** *Why did you choose Liu Chaozheng as the first target, since there were others before him?*

**A:** He lives in Kaixian County, my hometown, which made the case against him easier. The success of this case rings the alarm for others who owe me money.

**Q:** *How about the exact financial conditions of your office? Could you give some detailed numbers?*

**A:** The attorney fees that those run-away clients owe my office have reached over 5,000,000 yuan, leaving my office with more than 1,000,000 in debts, including a tax fee of more than 10,000 yuan. But for the donations, which so far total more than 1,200,000 yuan, my office would have been closed long ago.

**Q:** *Some say you are only in it for the money.*

**A:** For years, there was no one who would help the injured workers. Legal fees have to be low since the injured workers are usually very poor. Besides, sometimes there's no way to collect the commission because factories refuse to pay up or clients skip town. In fact, I have to spend my own money on traffic fees and other costs during the lawsuit since the workers usually have no money until they're paid compensation. All these costs are supposed to be repaid after the workers win their cases.

**Q:** *How much do you usually charge for each case?*

**A:** I'm supposed to receive 15-20% of each client's court awards, sometimes lower. It depends on how much the workers get. If someone is awarded 30,000 yuan, he will have little left if I take 20% or more from it.

**Q:** *What do you think of the rate you charge? Is it higher than average for your profession, or lower?*

**A:** About average. The commission some other lawyers charge for one case may run as high as half a million yuan or even more – far higher than what my office could earn in a year. Besides, I only charge for the cases that I have won. No other lawyer would work in this way. The responsibility of a lawyer is to represent and conduct the legal procedure. They have no duty to guarantee success.

**Q:** *Do you have any regrets about taking up this profession?*

**A:** This is a cause for me. I'm glad to see so many injured workers can get their compensation. It's a big step forward for society, the government, and the judicial system.

**Q:** *As the "protector of peasant workers", aren't you afraid of being misunderstood if you sue them?*

**A:** Some friends did advise me not to sue these workers, to keep my good "image". But I'm just a lawyer, and I need the earnings to continue my cause. My office needs to survive; so do my staff, to whom I owe wages of more than 300,000 yuan. Who will protect us? I've been divorced three times. Since the peasant workers who I represented and fought for couldn't understand me, how could my family?

**Q:** *How long will you keep fighting for the injured workers?*

**A:** I just can't stop. Many injured workers still crowd into my office everyday. What can I do? I can't refuse them.



# Folk Handicraft Arts



A new book illustrates traditional Chinese handicrafts, the practitioners and their arts and skills



## Extract

### Wood carving

**Interviewee:** Shentu Fuyin  
**Gender:** male  
**Age:** 88  
**Nationality:** Han  
**Where:** Xinwang Village, Tangxi, Zhejiang Province  
**When:** March 8, 2002

The host led us to a small courtyard behind the red brick house, where, in front of an old two-storied wooden house, a family was carving wood together under the eaves. Though the old wooden house is lower and more worn than the nearby red brick house, its craftsmanship is much more exquisite, with the eaves, doors and windows full of carved decorations.

It was clear that these family members belong to three generations. The difference in their ages was evident from their clothes. The grandfather wore a deep blue Chinese tunic suit and the father was in a jacket while the young son was in a suit, which, I guess, was worn particularly for our interview.

The grandfather is the well-known master of wood carving in the neighborhood, Shentu Fuyin. Born into a wood carving family in 1914, he belongs to the fourth generation in his family. Shentu began learning wood carving from his father when he was 9 years old. At 15, he went to work in a wood carving workshop in Shanghai. At age 24, he went to Hong Kong to conduct wood carving handicraft. In 1953, he went back to the hometown and retired in 1974. His wood carving works had been selected as decorations in China's embassy in the former Soviet Union and his masterpiece "Drunken Taibai" was presented as a gift to US President Richard Nixon when he visited China in 1972.

Now the 88-year-old was sitting between his son and grandson, holding a stick in his hand. Occasionally, he would take a look at their work, but most of the time, he just sat there in silence, with a lonely look on his face. When I asked them about the design of the carved decorations on the doors and windows, nobody in the courtyard could explain clearly, except the old man, who, when answering the question, became aroused and seemed to have a lot to say, which was not surprising since the decorations were carved by his own father.

Shentu quietly stared at the door and the windows. It was like he was memorizing the feeling of the hand as it carved those decorations. The colors of the decorations had faded, as if being washed over by time. The old man realized that we were interested in the old wood carving so he told his grandson to take out from inside the house a carved wood piece covered by thick dirt. It was called "the ox's leg", a strut for the eave, which was a work of his grandfather. Several years ago when the ancient house was dismantled, the old man kept the strut for memory. At our request, the old man put his stick aside and showed us the skill of "knife painting" on a board. In just a few strokes, the old man carved out a person's outline using a hammer and a chisel.



## By Zhang Huan

Life today is dominated by standard products from assembly lines. The articles we use, the clothes we wear, the food we eat, are all "products," the result of manufacturing. None are unique.

*Chinese Folk Handicraft Art*, written and photographed by Gao Xing, records 22 traditional handicraft professions, including embroidery, wood carving, bamboo weaving, wax-dyeing and kite-making, with a mixture of nostalgia for a disappearing way of life and delight in the simple beauty of those hand-made objects.

The 22 handicraft professions are divided into five categories: traditional food, traditional textiles, printing and coloring skills, traditional technologies and traditional arts. For every handicraft profession, there is an interview with an artisan and his or her family, an introduction of the working processes and a collection of related historical records. Gao also relates some interesting folk stories and anecdotes concerning the handicraft skills. The book also contains two comprehensive appendices. The first lists the names of all the gods related to the various handicraft professions, such as God Lü Dongbin of hair cutting and God Lu Ban of umbrella making. The second lists the 360 different traditional handicraft professions in China.



## Author's thoughts

Handicraft means to use the hand... The tools are made of wood, iron and stone and the working process involves water and fire, which are the most basic elements of Chinese traditional five-element theory: metal, wood, water, fire and earth. The only power for the working is the strength of a man himself.

The handicraft skills do not improve over the years. Original processes and original tools, passed on from generation to generation by mouth or by hand, some cannot be explained, but can only be grasped through practice. An old craftsman teaches his apprentice or a father teaches his son or a mother-in-law shows her daughter-in-law, in these ways the handicraft skills are handed down till today. Handicraft articles are unrepeatable, irregular, creative, mysterious and unconscious, which make them artistic to a large extent.

The hand is the boundary, the boundary of creating the world, just like poetry. If they become technical and are produced on assembly lines, they are no more poetry, but a product.

## Extract

### Embroidery

**Interviewee:** Long Meisan  
**Gender:** female  
**Age:** 38  
**Nationality:** Miao  
**Where:** Shanjiaji, Fenghuang County, Hunan Province  
**When:** May 4, 2002

Long was holding an umbrella, a small bamboo-woven basket hanged from her elbow, where she kept the tools for embroidery. The old stone houses in the background were gloomy and the road paved with slab stones reflected some light. That was the picture striking me when Long appeared in my eyes. I guessed she must have been a very beautiful girl in her blooming age. I could see that she had put on some make-up, and her husband had avoided our interview intentionally out of politeness.

Like all the other girls of the Miao nationality, Long began learning embroidery since she was four or five years old, first from her sister-in-law. The third child in her family, she dropped out of school after she finished five years' study in a primary school, and stayed at home doing embroidery until at the age of 18, when she was married into this town from Banpan, her hometown.

Long's husband does not have sisters, so his family had no background in embroidery. Only after Long's coming did the embroidery of his family become famous, with Long's mother-in-law helping her as an assistant. Long has now two sons, one in high school and the other in primary school, but the boys do not learn embroidery. Right now Long is teaching her little niece, though she is only four years old. Long told me her sons would find girls able to do embroidery as wives.

I asked Long what kind of designs she liked the most. She said the butterfly and the bird, both of which are able to fly. Long told me, "When I see butterflies and birds in flowers, I feel relaxed and happy in my heart."

Long says the embroidered work used to be for family use or to be given to relatives or friends as gifts. Now they embroider more pieces to sell. I pointed to the embroidered piece in her hand and asked how much it would be sold for. She answered: "Probably 10 yuan." "How long does it take to embroider such a piece?" "Two days," she said.

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# Italian Opera Comes to Beijing

By Yu Shanshan

Following the recently staged Peking Opera version of Rossini's *Turandot*, a genuine Italian opera comes to town this weekend. *Lucia di Lammermoor* by Gaetano Donizetti, a composer whose works are relatively unknown to Chinese audiences, will be staged at the Tianqiao Theatre on June 26 and 27.

The Romeo-and-Juliet type story is based on a novel by Scottish poet and novelist Sir Walter Scott, set in Scotland in the late 16th century.

Sir Henry Ashton, Lord of Lammermoor, wishes his sister Lucy to marry Lord Arthur Bucklaw, for financial and political reasons, though she is engaged to Edgar of Ravenswood. By means of a forged letter Bucklaw deceives Sir Henry into believing that Edgar, the hereditary enemy of the family, loves another. Lucy therefore consents to marry Bucklaw. As she is signing the marriage contract, Edgar suddenly appears and reveals the truth. Lucy, mad with grief, kills Bucklaw, and on recovering her senses dies of horror at her crime. Edgar, hearing of the calamity, kills himself. The famous "mad scene" is mentioned by Tolstoy and Flaubert in their novels *Anna Karenina* and *Madame Bovary*.

Antonello Madau Diaz of Milan's La Scala Opera Theatre directs the production and Li Xincuo, a rising star in China's



classical music world, conducts the China Opera and Dance Symphony Orchestra. All the major roles, including Chinese actors and Greek soprano Spanaki Loukia,

were selected in October 2002. Originally scheduled to be performed last year, the opera was postponed due to the SARS epidemic.

## What's on DVD

By Wang Yumeng

Goodfellas

Martin Scorsese's *GoodFellas* is one of the most brutal sensory assaults on audiences since the likes of *Mean Streets* and *Raging Bull*. This is the director at his most skilled: working from a story that is set in New York, Scorsese knows the ins and outs of the material like a butcher knows how to work with cutlery. If you are a fan of Martin Scorsese, *Goodfellas* should not be missed.

Stuck on You

*Stuck on You*, the Farrelly brothers' latest comedy does not have all the usual ingredients of a Farrelly brother project. Though the film, which focuses on two conjoined twins, does offer its share of laughs and chuckles, the energy and panache of their previous films is not present in this low key offering.

The Day After Tomorrow

This movie takes a big-budget, special-effects-filled look at what the world would look like if the greenhouse effect and global warming continued at such levels that they resulted in worldwide catastrophe and disaster, including multiple hurricanes, tornadoes, tidal waves, floods and the beginning of the next Ice Age...



## Rock Review

### F.I.R

By Wang Yao

Three piece group F.I.R from Taiwan are gaining points with their first self-titled album, released by Warner Music this April. The album was just released on the mainland in June.

The trio are young, but have some solid experience behind them, which is evident on listening to their album. Singer Faye (the "F" in F.I.R) is gifted in her penetrating voice, which has a wide range. Keyboard player Chen Jianing (Ian, the "I" in F.I.R), is well known across Taiwan. He has worked

with pop luminaries including Stephanie Sun, Ah Mei, and S.H.E. A Qin (Real, the "R" in F.I.R), on guitar, has also worked with some big names.

Heavily influenced by western music, the band's music combines folk rock, rock, jazz and reggae. On *Lydia*, the first hit taken from the album Faye's hoarse vocals give energy to the majestic song. *Revolution* sees the pairing of new metal with guzheng, a traditional Chinese stringed instrument, adding an oriental flavor to the modern music.



## WORLDWIDE

### Madonna Chooses 'Esther' As New Name

Call her Esther: That's the Hebrew name Madonna has chosen for herself as a follower of Kabbalah.



Madonna

"I was named after my mother. My mother died when she was very young, of cancer," the singer says in an interview on ABC's 20/20 last Friday, "This is in no way a negation of who my mother is ... I wanted to attach myself to the energy of a different name."

(AP)

### Angelina Jolie Won't Carry Olympic Torch

Hollywood star Angelina Jolie will not carry the Olympic torch during one of the final stages of the relay because of a commitment to a movie, the United Nations refugee agency said Friday.



Angelina Jolie

Jolie, 29, had agreed last January to run a stage of the Olympic torch relay in Athens one day before the start of the August 13-29 Olympics.

"Angelina Jolie will not visit Greece on the occasion of the Olympic Games in August due to unexpected contractual obligations," the UNHCR said.

Jolie, a goodwill ambassador for the UNHCR since 2001, was to have dedicated her stretch of the relay to the world's refugees.

(AP)

### Forbes Names Mel Gibson Most Powerful Celebrity

Mel Gibson, whose controversial film *The Passion of Christ* paid off big at the box office, is the year's most powerful celebrity, according to Forbes magazine's Celebrity 100 power rankings.

Gibson, who directed, produced and co-wrote the violent movie about the last hours of Jesus, earned



Mel Gibson

\$210 million and tremendous media buzz from the project, according to *Forbes* magazine, which factors in media attention to compare the biggest money-makers from various fields of entertainment.

Magazine covers, press clippings, TV and radio coverage and Internet hits are all factored into the rankings formula.

Money earned in the last 12 months was used to identify the finalists in each category.

(Reuters)

### Winona Ryder's Shoplifting Charges Reduced

Actress Winona Ryder may still be a convicted shoplifter, but she is no longer a felon.



Winona Ryder

Ryder, who was found guilty in 2002 of stealing thousands of dollars in clothes and accessories from the Saks Fifth Avenue store in Beverly Hills, won a bid on Friday to have her convictions reduced to misdemeanors.

"We made a request to the judge that he reduce the charges because she has fully complied with everything he required her to do and the judge agreed," Ryder's attorney, Sheldon Kopp, said.

The judge also ruled that she serve the remainder of her three years probation informally.

Kopp said the *Girl, Interrupted* star had completed 480 hours of community service at a hospital, paid more than \$7,000 in fines and restitution and attended counseling.

Ryder, who attended the brief hearing in Beverly Hills Superior Court and thanked the judge, will remain on informal probation for the next 18 months.

She will regain her right to vote and may ultimately ask to have the convictions expunged from her record.

Ryder, who has twice been nominated for Academy Awards, was convicted in 2002 of felony grand theft and vandalism.

(Reuters)

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Bookworm

By Jiang Yongzhu

There are book bars in Beijing, and then there is the blessed Bookworm. The king of local reading room restaurants, this little oasis of quiet civility sports a library of nearly 6,000 titles, good drinks, nice coffee, killer pastries, fine food and an outdoor patio to boot. What's not to love?

One of the Bookworm's secrets of success is location, tucked behind a wall of green plants down a quiet lane that stretches west off Sanlitun north bar street. To find it, follow the road-side sign and then your nose along the scent of fresh croissants baking.

The cozy interior is split into a dining area and book room that blend smoothly into each other thanks to the good light and solid furniture.

Most books on the well-stocked shelves are in English and run the gamut of fiction and non-fiction categories. Among the biographies and tomes on history, philosophy, current affairs and travel are many titles related to China. There is also a fun selection of children's books.

Becoming part of the Bookworm family is as easy as filling out a membership form and paying 250 yuan in annual dues. The establishment also offers half-year memberships for 150 yuan and whole family plans for 500 yuan. Members are allowed to take out any two books at a time for periods of up to two weeks and encouraged to donate their old books, meaning the collection grows all the time.

The Bookworm regularly hosts interesting activities such as book talks, lectures and cultural festivals. The theme for July is mystery and crime, while August activities will focus on France and Latin America.

As tempting as the bookshelves may be, members and new customers are not likely to be able to overlook the case of fresh pastries and confections and the tantalizing menu, which offers French and Tunisian food. Coffee, treats and full meals are served all day, making the Bookworm about as a perfect reading space as one could ask for.

**Where:** Building 10, Sanlitun Beijie, Chaoyang **Open:** 8 am - 1 am **Tel:** 6417 6095

There are plenty of bookstores in this city, some absolutely massive, some more humble, but few have the comfortable seats, restful vibe and accoutrements to make them places for pleasant browsing or reading. That is where book bars, like those introduced below, come in, providing prime conditions, good material and plenty of attractive extras like coffee, snacks and activities for rewarding reading sessions.

Nooks for Books

Kosmo

By Wang Yao

While the branch on Lotus Lane is aimed squarely at tourists and trendy locals, the Kosmo café at an unlikely location just east of the bustling Dongsi intersection in Chaoyang District has a different feel – it's an attractive place to enjoy a coffee or healthy snack and some stimulating reading.

A quick glance at the smallish reading area is enough to know this is not a typical book bar. All the volumes were supplied by the News Office of the State Council and mostly focus on politics and issues in contemporary Chinese culture.

Among the collection are many books about Tibet, describing and depicting the geography, people, religion and history of the "roof of the world". To better serve Kosmo's international clientele, many such titles are available in English, Chinese, Japanese and French.

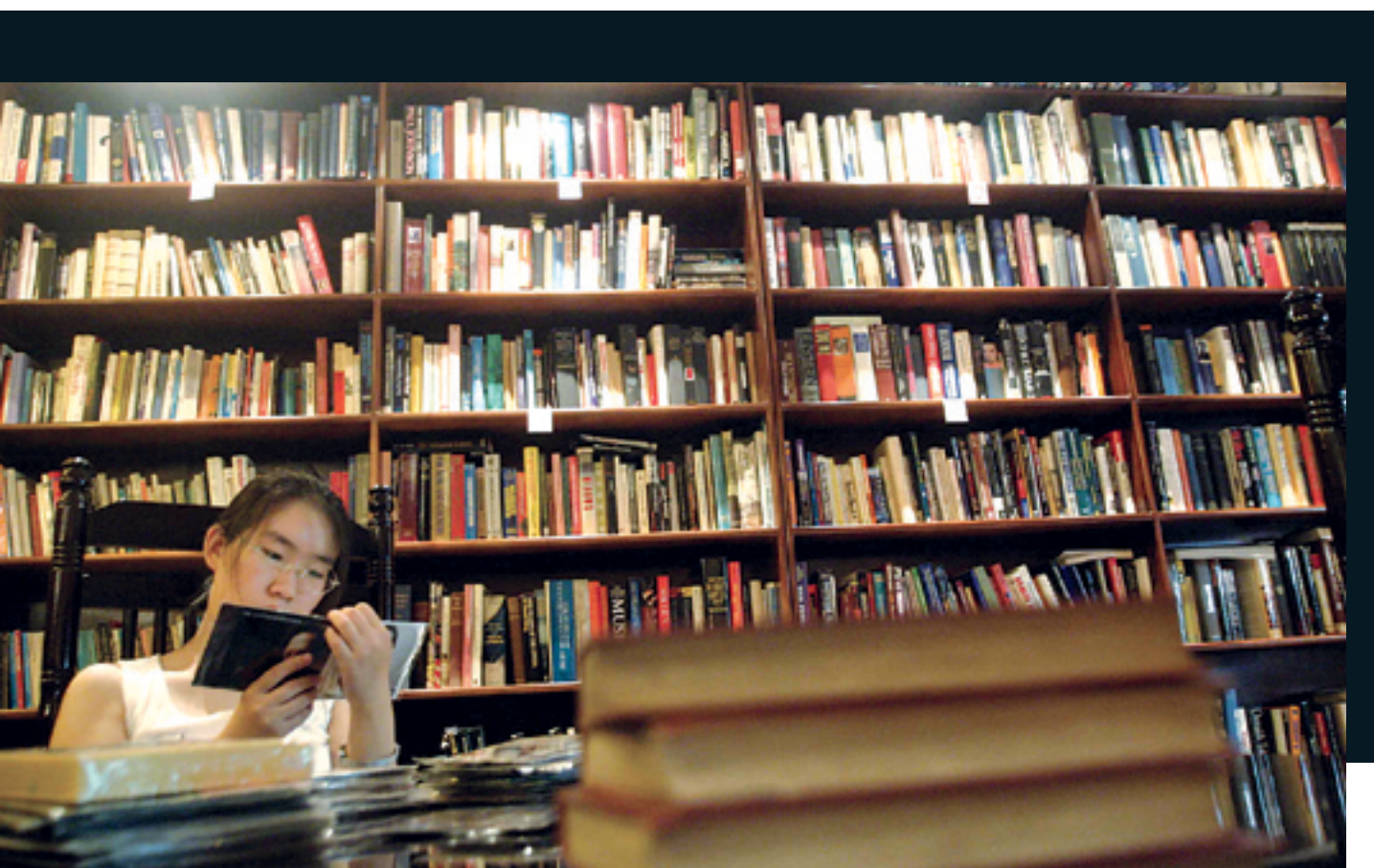
Readers interested in delving into traditional Chinese culture can check out translations of ancient classics, such as *Yue Fu Songs with Regular Five Syllable Lines* and *Selected Elegies of the State of Chu*, while books by popular modern

writers like Ai Qing and Lao She are also available.

Yet another shelf is devoted to books on China's varied natural scenery, social customs, gardens, photography, Peking Opera and other domestic matters.

The magazine selection targets a high-brow audience, with such publications as *China News in the US*, *China Society Human Rights Studies and Reforms* and *Innovations* and state-run periodicals like *Beijing Review* and *Culture Exchange*.

**Where:** No. 225 Chaoyangmennei Dajie, Dongcheng **Open:** 8:30 am- 10:30 pm **Tel:** 8400 1567



The Bookworm features the largest collection this side of a library.

Photos by Li Shuzhuan

Thinker's

By Wang Yue

The Thinker's Coffee Shop rides the line between java house and reading room thanks to the presence of the respected All Sage academic bookstore next door. The play here is to pick up a new book, saunter into Thinker's and order a soothing cup of Illy espresso, priced at 18 yuan for a shot, or a rich coffee drink, like "Thinker's coffee", a potent mix of espresso, dark rum and

lemon peel (25 yuan). Then sink into a chair, open the book and slide off into a world of words. Thinker's also stocks a bunch of goods and nick-nacks that reading fans are sure to like. Fans of the bookstore next door can purchase T-shirts (48 yuan) and mugs (20 yuan) printed with the All Sage logo, while diaphanous Tibetan lanterns printed with Buddha images (48 yuan each) are a good choice for giving a little book bar flavor to a home study.

**Where:** No. 58 Chengfu Lu, Haidian **Open:** 10 am - midnight **Tel:** 6276 8749

Space for Imagination

By Wang Yue

A favorite of students at nearby Tsinghua University and other Beijing bohemians, the Space for Imagination Coffee House has all the ingredients for being a top-notch book bar. The book collection is not huge, but offers a solid, diverse selection including academic works, pictorial magazines and a few collective diaries written in many languages by customers passing through. Space for Imagination's quiet, comfortable and well-designed space is great for nestling into a comfortable chair with a good read. Be sure to also check out the bar's tantalizing range of freshly-brewed coffee drinks, beverages and tasty Western food, from sandwiches and salads to pizzas. The bar screens underground films every Saturday at 7 pm in its own little theater and hosts other periodic activities, such as free lectures.

**Where:** No.5 Xiwangzhuang, Shuangqing Lu, Haidian **Open:** 10 am - 2 am **Tel:** 6279 1280

Godot

By Wang Yue

The literary and artistic pedigree of the Godot bar is clear in its name, inspired by Samuel Becket's famed play *Waiting for Godot*, and its owner, curator Wu Penghui. It may be a bit short on books, but it has plenty else going for it, with appealing drinks, coffee and gifts in environs that are ideal for an afternoon reading session. The impressive beer list includes many imports, from Belgian brews like Chimay, Leffe and Kwak to Germany's Bitburger and Italy's Moretti. Prices range from 19 yuan to 39 yuan, and all are presented in authentic glasses for optimum enjoyment. The bar stocks a somewhat limited selection of books and magazines, including hard-to-find imports like *Rolling Stone*, that are available for browsing and purchase. Customers in a buying mood should also inspect the collection of fun postcards (2 yuan each) with pictures of stars Chinese and foreign and traditional paintings, priced to move at just 20 yuan to 30 yuan each.

**Where:** No. 24, Building 4, Jiadaokou Donglu (near Beijing Oriental International Culture Exchange Center), Dongcheng **Open:** 10 am - 1 am **Tel:** 6407 3093

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Robert Laing, the culture and education officer of the US Embassy in Beijing, chatted with Beijing Today readers in our "Study Abroad Salon" forum on Monday this week.

During the 90-minute session, Mr. Laing and his assistant answered more than 20 questions on such topics as selecting and applying to universities, the visa application process and student life on and off campus.

Beijing Today will continue to invite education, culture and visa officers from foreign embassies in Beijing, as well as presidents and chancellors of foreign universities, to chat in the "Study Abroad Salon" forum every Monday afternoon at 2 pm.

Please check our website, <http://bjtoday.ynet.com>, for more details, or directly contact or pose questions to the chat room host, Ayi, at: [ayi@ynet.com](mailto:ayi@ynet.com).

#### University Choosing and Applying

I want to study for an MA in communications in the US. I know this requires high levels of English writing and speaking. Do you think this is possible for me?

— suppergirl

The US is an excellent place to study mass media and communications. My advice is to work on your English and apply.

When choosing a major, should I make my decision based on university ranking or program ranking?

— crocodile

There is no official ranking, either on the school or subject, in the US. But I would ensure that both the university and the program are accredited by appropriate accrediting organizations. In China, you can contact the Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange in Beijing Language and Culture University and the university itself for new and reliable accreditation information.

The university at which I studied is not famous like Beijing University. Is that important in my applications to US universities? Can I still study in the US?

— dancer

American universities look not only at the quality of the courses that a student took but we also have standardized exams that are very carefully managed. That could be more important than the reputation of your university.

I am a senior high school student. I contacted intermediaries for studying in the US and they strongly recommended the "High-School Student Exchange Program". They said if I was in this program, I could obtain a visa easily. But I have no idea what the program is.

— yezhaoyuan924@163.com

The US has many private (non-governmental) high school exchange programs. As with any student visa, you will have to show that you have the financial support to do the program and that you intend to return to China when the program is over. Because these programs are private,



Photo by Li Shuzhuan

## Half Million Foreign Students Head to US Every Year

I cannot recommend one or the other. Try searching online for these exchange programs.

I am a graduate in medical imaging technology and want to study for a Master's degree in clinical medicine in the US. I am wondering whether, having first studied medical imaging technology, I can shift my career direction in the US.

— benteng2000@etang.com

What you need to do is to get some good advice from a consultant. Also, every US university has its own website for consulting.

On top of all this, that is the specialty of the American education system — people are always shifting majors of study. Of course, you must first meet the university admission requirements for the program you're interested in.

#### Living and Studying in the US

I have received an offer to study computer science at a US university. Can I bring my wife with me? Is there any government support for overseas students' family members?

— kavin

Contact the university for the information. There is no government program to support students' family members.

Are there agencies in US univer-

sities to help students find safe and qualified companies to do part-time jobs?

— rose007

Foreign students are allowed to work ONLY on campuses in the US.

I will go to the US to study in September. But I am still wondering whether it is safe to live and study there.

— rose007

Generally, students are safe. You have to use common sense. University orientations have information on personal security. Most universities also have campus security officers and equipment, for example on-campus phone networks and escort services.

**Notice**  
In the "Study Abroad Salon" next Monday, June 28, will be Ms. Katharine Campbell, the counselor of education, science and training of the Australian Embassy in Beijing. You can register in the salon at: <http://bjtoday.ynet.com>, and paste your questions there, or send your questions to Ayi at: [ayi@ynet.com](mailto:ayi@ynet.com)

I graduated from an institute of technology in 1991 and later gave up my job to have a baby. My husband is a successful businessman in China, but I want to get started again. I want to learn English teaching, such as TESOL. Is that possible?

— andria

There are many universities that offer English as a Second Language Programs, but you should consider whether the same programs are offered here in China at considerably less expense.

#### Education Promotion

Will the US be more open to inter-

national students, like the promotions conducted by the UK overseas?

— nellie

I can't speak for the UK, but the US welcomes about half a million international students from around the world each year, including about 65,000 from China.

#### Visa and Immigration

Have you or the embassy received any complaints or pressure from universities and education organizations in the US about the strict visa policy towards foreign students?

— nellie

First, the visa requirements have not changed. Second, I am not a visa officer. But so far as I know, a number of American university presidents and others have written articles/opinions in the US media, urging the government to strike a balance between keeping the country open to foreign students and addressing security concerns.

I am a doctor of traditional Chinese medicine. Now, I have a chance to work in the US. My questions are: Can I obtain a "green card" after working four years in the US? And, my English is not too good. Can I easily adapt to the working environment there?

— hanqxh@pub.nt.jsinfo.net

I know nothing about immigration because I am a culture and education officer only.

You can check Guangzhou consulate's website for information. You have to learn English well because it would be difficult to work in the US without good English.

### Ask Ayi:

#### I have only 150,000 yuan and I want to study in the US. What can I do?

Plan A: Find a short-term, less expensive Master's degree program. Some universities offer one-year programs, like a Master's in marketing at the City University of New York. That costs a total of \$20,000, including tuition and living expenses.

Plan B: Apply for scholarships and on-campus part-time jobs.

#### I am a high school student. How can I study in an American high school? Or, should I finish my undergraduate education in China and then go for graduate studies?

Plan A: Finish your high school studies here, and then apply for undergraduate studies in the US. A four-year program costs between 500,000 yuan to 1 million yuan.

Plan B: If you do not have enough money, choose to study in Canada. Education costs are lower there, and it is easier to get into the US.

#### I am a third-year university student in psychology and want to find an applied psychology postgraduate course in the US. I do not want to involve in research programs. What kinds of qualifications would be needed to apply for an applied psychology course?

Plan A: There are many applied psychology courses in the US, such as educational psychology and physical psychology, so you should be able to find one that does not require research. Good TOEFL and GRE test scores are the keys to getting accepted into such a program.

Plan B: If you can't find the kind of program you want, try something related. You may like that course, or you can use it as a platform for shifting into the program you want.

### Letters from Overseas:

## Australia's Group of Eight

By Li Yan

Ever heard of Australia's Go8?

The term, short for the Group of Eight, refers to the country's top universities, namely University of Adelaide, Australian National University, University of Melbourne, Monash University, University of New South Wales, University of Queensland, University of Sydney and University of Western Australia.

While the universities themselves are much older, the Group of Eight was established in 1994, at first as an informal network of university vice-chancellors.

The Go8 went official in 1999 with the aim of maintaining world-class standards at member universities.

The group is also used to enhance the contributions of Australian universities to their country, to improve the nation's capacities for participating in and benefiting from world development, and to open opportunities for Australians to get the best in higher education.

To learn more about the Go8 and other Australian universities, check the group's official website, <http://www.go8.edu.au>.

*Li Yan is a graduate student currently studying for a marketing/international studies double degree program at University of South Australia in Adelaide.*

*Li is a free lancer for a number of newspapers and magazines both in Australia and China, including Beijing Today.*

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By Lü Pinrou

In the court of public opinion, fast food is faring badly these days, with several major global chains coming under fire for serving fattening products nearly devoid of nutrition. Such sentiment does not keep Beijingers, however, from lining up daily at two international fast food giants that have drawn the most criticism, often as much for their products' lack of flavor as for their cholesterol count. When the munchies come calling, intrepid diners would do well to avoid the big names and track down one of the city's brave, independent purveyors of fast food that prove speedy eats can also be delicious. After tasting the burgers, chicken, fries and deep-fried fish served at these joints, there's no going back to the watered-down, mass-produced versions.

## Where Fast Food Means Good Food

Real fish and chips at Fish Nation, 20 yuan for a medium serving



Bacon cheeseburger set at Lee's, 39 yuan

### Lee's American Cafe

A small island of Americana in the capital, Lee's American Cafe is nestled in a well-placed location near the US embassy.

The owner's fascination with Texas is clear from the carved, wooden map of the state on one wall, paintings of cowboys and similar Old West icons on others and the piped-in country music taped from direct American radio.

The small kitchen specializes in burgers and sandwiches that truly satisfy. At Lee's, each burger is made to order and just as a diner wants, with or without cheese, pickles, onions and other dividing ingredients. To make sure everything tastes right, many ingredients are brought in direct from American sources.

When calories are not an issue, reach for a bacon cheeseburger, a tall stack of pleasure that costs just 20.8 yuan, or 39 yuan in meal deal form. From the crisp bun to the tasty beef patty to the delicious, low-grease bacon, this is a burger to cherish.

Many restaurants around town offer club sandwiches, but Lee's is the real deal, a layered affair of good bread, ham, turkey, bacon, cheese, veggies and pickles. Breakfast fans should take note of the all-day breakfast specials,

including the filling combo of a piece of bacon or sausage, two fried eggs, two hash browns, toast, coffee, milk or juice, and all for just 25 yuan. Wash down a meal with a real American beverage like root beer or the elusive Dr. Pepper. Delivery is also offered free-of-charge to locations within two kilometers.

**Where:** 47 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang **Open:** 7 am - midnight (Mondays to Fridays) 8:30 am - midnight (weekends) **Average cost:** 30 - 40 yuan **Tel:** 6591 8392

**Kiosk**  
For a more exotic style of burger, try Kiosk, a little booth off Sanlitun bar street that sells Serbian-style sandwiches. With the owner and cook both hailing from the Balkan region, authenticity is guaranteed.

Burgers come made of pork, beef or lamb, all mixed with plenty of spices. The house special, the Kiosk burger, is a patty of pork and beef served on a crisp baguette and priced at just 18 yuan. Up the stakes with a Big Bite, a Kiosk burger topped with cheese and homemade pickled peppers for 25 yuan.

Other popular items include the *chevaptschichi*, a kebab-like creation, and sandwiches filled with smoked pork, grilled chicken and even duck breast, all long and flavor and low in price.

A burger would be little without its partner in crime – fries – and



Bread and meat grilled fresh at Kiosk

again the Kiosk does not disappoint. Quality, fresh potatoes are cut thick and fried crisp on the outside, tender inside – perhaps a tad too greasy, but undeniably satisfying.

**Where:** Sanlitun Beijie (next to Jazz Ya) **Open:** 10:30 am - 10 pm (closed Mondays) **Average cost:** 30 yuan **Tel:** 6413 2461

**Fish Nation**  
Not far from Kiosk stands Fish Nation, a new little restaurant that hails itself at the first authentic purveyor of Britain's most famous contribution to the fast food world: fish and chips.

The pleasant, no-frills environment helps set the stage for the straight-forward food based on excellent ingredients. The fish is cod imported from Alaska, the chips made from thick-cut, flavorful potatoes. Everything is cooked in an open kitchen, meaning there is no reason to question cleanliness (can any chain make such a claim?) Prices are at the high end for fast food, but certainly fair considering the quality, with a large serving of fish and chips going for 30 yuan and smaller versions for 18 yuan or 12 yuan.

For a little departure from tradition, try the seafood mix of fish and golden rings of deep-fried calamari (23 yuan) or the tempura-styled fried vegetables. Nothing goes better with fish and chips than a frosty beer, and Fish Nation abides with 20-yuan bottles of refreshing Belgian wheat beer Hoegaarden among others and a list of cocktails and other beverages on the way. Just like in merry old England, the food is served wrapped in cones

of paper, printed on one side with Fish Nation's own funky newspaper. Customers can then carry their cones away, or find a seat in the small dining area and dig in. Brilliant.

**Where:** west of Sanlitun Beijie (across from Tongli Studio), Chaoyang **Open:** 11 am - 2 am (4 am on weekends) **Average cost:** 30 - 40 yuan **Tel:** 6415 0119

**California Chicken**  
Not to be mistaken with so-called California beef noodles that have nothing to do with the state, California Chicken serves chicken with a distinct taste of the US' "Sunshine State".

Forgoing the deep-fryer, the birds are sliced and flame broiled. Served California style, the juicy chicken strips come with freshly baked tortillas, or thin flour pancakes, for wrapping with a spritz of lemon juice and a dollop of delicious, tomato-based salsa.

For a simpler chicken fix, the strips are served on their own for eating with fingers. For such

tasty chicken, the prices are staggering. A two-piece meal, consisting of two sides, two tortillas, two pieces of chicken, one serving of salsa and a can of Coke is a rock-bottom 19.5 yuan, and the larger four-piece meal just 33.5 yuan. For optimum value and volume, try the restaurant's buffet spread, which offers all the chicken, soup, mashed potatoes, salad, coleslaw, corn, rice and vegetables a hungry person can eat for only 16 yuan.

**Where:** No. 134A, Di'anmenwai Dajie, Dongcheng **Open:** 10:30 am - 10:30 pm **Average cost:** 20 yuan **Tel:** 6406 0243



## Exotic Tastes, Hidden Door

By Joel Kirkhart

There are just a few things keeping the Middle Eastern-style restaurant Souk from unassuming greatness and breathing some needed life into the tiring Chaoyang Park West gate area. The first of those problems is the most important – it's hard to find. There is no big sign on the street, and for a restaurant that is tucked down a (surprisingly clean) service alley behind Annie's Italian restaurant, that is a mistake that will cost well-earned business.

Souk is also a bit short on manpower. Our waitress was friendly and helpful, but as the only server working the room, sometimes hard to find. A final minor gripe is that a few dishes need a heavier hand with the spice.

These strikes aside, though, Souk does many things right. The salads on the relatively short menu are must-tries. The tabbouleh is outstanding,

perhaps not completely traditional, yet very refreshing and tasty, made with a mix of diced yellow bell pepper, onion, tomato and loads of parsley.

The hummus, a dip of mashed chickpeas and other ingredients, was fine, but too bland to qualify as stellar. It needed more garlic, more paprika, and none of the little pickle slices around the edges.

Until the garlic quotient in the hummus is raised dramatically, skip it



Falafel, 25 yuan

and head for the excellent falafel, six decent-sized disks of mashed chickpeas fried crisp and coated with sesame seeds. They come served on a bed of shredded cabbage for mixing into a salad with the soothing tahini (raw sesame paste) dressing, but are just as good for stuffing into halves of pita bread to make a Middle Eastern sandwich. The patties have a complex texture and a rich melange of spices, and at 25 yuan a plate, could be the best cheap lunch option in the area.

The flip side of the menu lists heavier fare, from skewers and sausages to sets served on rice. Even in this skewer-loving city, Souk's kebabs are hard to beat. The lamb and chicken versions feature large chunks of tender, well-spiced meat, separated on the skewers by pieces of onion and bell pepper.

The restaurant's environs add to the pleasure, mixing diverse elements like terracotta tiled floors, whitewashed walls, some good Panjiayuan furniture and lush vegetation into a whole that



Lamb skewers, 6 yuan each

is airy and sophisticated without being pretentious. The tall windows swivel open to let in lots of fresh air, and a beautiful outdoor seating area is being completed.

Once the patio is done, and if management addresses a few other problems, Souk should be a new local star, a prime spot for a quick, easy dinner or a pleasant evening of munching on pita and sipping cocktails.

**Where:** Chaoyang Park West Gate, behind Annie's, Chaoyang **Open:** 6 pm - 12 pm **Average cost:** 40 yuan per person **Tel:** 6506 7309

## Recipe: Perfect Hamburgers

Common wisdom holds that few foods are easier to make than hamburgers. That is only true if taste and texture don't matter. For optimum

results, hamburgers require more care, a good starting cut of meat and plenty of fat for moistening and flavor. Start by making the garlic-herb butter below:

- 3 tablespoons finely chopped fresh or dried herbs (parsley, chives, basil, oregano)
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 stick salted butter, at room temperature

Put butter, herbs, garlic and pepper into a bowl and beat with a wooden spoon until fluffy and mixed. A food processor can also be used. Lay a .3 meter-square piece of plastic wrap on a flat surface and mound the butter in the middle. Roll the butter into a cylinder, twisting the ends of the wrap to compact the butter. Chill until firm.

- 750 grams ground beef (sirloin, round or chuck best)
- 4 tablespoons garlic herb butter, cut into four disks
- Coarse salt and pepper

Wet hands, then pick up one fourth of the meat and form into a flat ball, then made depression in the middle with thumb. Put butter disk into depression, then mold meat around butter to evenly encase. Season outside of burgers with salt and pepper.

Grill the burgers over a preheated grill until cooked through. Figure on five to seven minutes per side for medium done over high heat. Serve with grilled buns and your favorite burger toppings.





## Personal Classifieds

## Accommodation

An apartment near Chaoyang Garden, with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 living room, occupying 114 square meters. 31st floor, good view, 3 kilometers to CBD. 6,500 yuan or \$850 per month. Contact: Claire, 13552209059, 8559 1924, or xiaodong95777@yahoo.ca

An employee who just settled down in Beijing needs to find one-bedroom apartment near railway. Separate toilet and air-condition is preferred. Expected price: 800 yuan per month. Sharing an apartment is acceptable. Contact: itisyang@sina.com

## For sale and wanted

Sofa, leather yellow color, 90% new, 2 meter in length, 1,000 yuan or \$125. Dressing table, red orange color, 90% new, 1.5 meter in length, 1,000 yuan or US \$125. Dressing chair, red orange color, 90% new. 200 yuan \$25, and dining table, antique Chinese style, brown red color, 10,000 yuan or \$1,250. Vacuum cleaner, can use in dry and wet

conditions, 90% new, 1,000 yuan or \$125. Contact: Claire, 13552209059, 8559 1924, or xiaodong95777@yahoo.ca

Some new MP3, flash disk, CD-ROM, DVD and CDRW, in the period of warranty service, for sale. The price and quality are guaranteed. Contact: Lily, 5176 3854, 13671081594, or Email: lilyrose1594@yahoo.com.cn

Drum for sale - African djembe drum for sale. Brand new. 80 cm high, for 600 yuan. Contact: Julianne Baecker, Call 13661310342

## Situations vacant and wanted

A four star international chain hotel is looking for a sales executive with following criteria: Preferably with working experience in an international hotel; reasonably good English in both oral and written; positive attitude and self motivated; like challenges; a team player. Interested candidates please send your resume to marygoh@163bj.com

May, MBA student, seven-

year marketing and PR experience (telecom industry), two-year investment consulting and managerial experiences (Finance industry), all in the multinational companies. She has a sensitive mind of business opportunities, excels at two-way communication and has a strategic leadership. She wants a full or part-time job in her familiar fields. Her email: mayhan729@vip.sina.com

A four star international hotel is looking for an executive floor manager. He or she will be self-motivated, with a strong sense of responsibility, decent communication skills in English and working experience in a four or five star hotel. Interested candidates, please send your resume to hrm@novotelxinqiaobj.com or call 6513 3366 ext. 1739

Tang Xinbo, holder of master's degree in law, is seeking a position as investment manager or advisor or lawyer for a financial, consulting, construction, travel or tourism firm. Email: txblawyer@sina.com.cn Tel: 8161 1860

Multi-language layout spe-

cialize in various type of localization with Quark and Acrobat. Meanwhile, provide technical support (MacOS and Win) services for maintaining and integrating your external digital equipment. Contact: 8462 4511, 13601032484, or email: coolmac@163.com

Teaching guitar! Professional guitar player and experienced teacher available to teach classes for adults or children. Electric or acoustic. Class time and location flexible. Classes in Chinese. Contact: 6435 3596, 13552459685

Xie Chuan, male, 38, is good in English and German. After graduation from Beijing Foreign Studies University in 1989, he joined the International Department of the *People's Daily* as a journalist until 1995. From then to 1997 he worked for Beijing Sweda Computer Technologies Development Co. as a sales manager. In 1997, he joined China Great Wall International Exhibition Co. Contact him by email: Xie\_chuan2003@yahoo.com.cn

Lily, who studies English

herself and participates in self-taught higher education examinations, needs to find a part-time job to improve her English. She is available for English guide, interpreter, and translator.

## Language Exchange

An 30-year old English-major student, who is quite interested in translation and interpretation and is going to take an official intermediate interpretation examination (English), wants to find some opportunities in language exchange (either English or German). Contact: Wang Lu, 13911134971

Ting, female, English B.A., writer. She wants to make friend with a native English speaker. She is good at playing badminton and tennis, with an excellent health. "I'm also happy to be a tour guide free of charge. I will pick the first or the most humorous one." Contact her by email: we\_ting@sohu.com

Vivian, a sales and marketing person, wants to know native English speakers to

learn English. Her Email: vivian.jin@cpparkviewbj.com

Wei, a 25-year-old girl, enjoys English. She wants to find a person from America or Canada to practice oral English. Just for English and friendship. Contact her by email: lucky\_7633@sina.com, or 13683085975

Liu Xue, wants to find English language exchange partner as friend. Her mobile: 13693525027, Tel: 83844061

## Personals

Lirian is offering a helping hand to those foreigners living in Beijing when they meet problems and difficulty in shopping, travel and computer, etc. Contact: Lirian through email: jy26\_sj@sina.com or 13601122565

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## Jams

## Zhang Qianqian's warm-up

Zhang Qianqian is a world-renowned singer, writer, painter and model. The warm-up features Zhang performing new songs from her coming album for the first time publicly. Meanwhile, she will also introduce her new book and paintings.

**Where:** CD Bar, 16 Nongzhangua, Dongsanhuan, Chaoyang **When:** 9:30 pm, June 26 **Tel:** 6586 5532



## Askar and Grey Wolf at the Loft

The two-year-old Ear to the Ground Live Music Program, aiming at introducing a variety of music from home and abroad, especially young and promising bands, will present rock musician Askar, probably the most famous ever from Xinjiang, and his Grey Wolf band with their first of a series of acoustic performances next Monday at the Loft.

**When:** 8:30 pm, June 28, 2004  
**Where:** The Loft, 4 Gongti Beilu  
**Admission:** 50 yuan

## Movies



## Together (Heni Zaiyiqi)

Directed by Chen Kaige, starring Liu Peiqi, Tang Yun, Chen Hong, and Wang Zhiwen. Liu Cheng, a cook, lives in a small town with his son, until the boy receives an invitation to go to Beijing to participate in a nationwide violin contest. His father forces him to shift to a new violin teacher, Professor Yu, whom the boy despises. Before the contest, Professor Yu tells him a secret that will influence his life forever.

**Where:** Cherry Lane Movie Theater, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang, **When:** June 25 and 26, 8 pm **Admission:** 50 yuan **Tel:** 13501251303



## Ginger e Fred

Directed by Federico Fellini, starring Marcello Mastroianni, Giulietta Masina, an Italian comedy about Amelia and Pippo, who are reunited after several decades to perform their old music-hall act (imitating Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers) on a TV variety show. It's both a touchingly nostalgic journey into the past, and a viciously satirical attack

on television in general and Italian TV in particular, portraying it as a mindless freak show aimed at morons. Italian with Chinese subtitles.

**Where:** Italian Embassy, 2 Dong'erjie, Sanlitun **When:** 7 pm, June 25, **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6532 2187

## Adolescent Movie Festival

The first local Adolescent Movie Festival is underway at Gucheng Cinema, Shijingshan District. The free of charge festival will screen movies for young people every weekend till July 18.

Recommended features include *Wo Shi Yi Tiao Yu (I Am A Fish)*, July 10, and *Wang Shouxian de Xiatian (The Summer of Wang Shouxian)*, July 18.

**Where:** Gucheng Cinema, Gucheng Nanlu, Shijingshan **When:** 2:30 pm every weekend **Admission:** Free tickets are available at all communities in Shijingshan District **Tel:** 13601139150

## Activities

## Bj Hikers

A route to see the mines and the pines. There are nearly 10 mines in this area. The smell of the pines in the shade and the cherry blossom in the sunlight, with the backdrop of the raising peaks in the mist makes a perfect picture.

**Where:** Changping County **When:** June 27 **Pick up:** 8 am at the Lido Hotel, outside Starbucks **Cost:** 150 yuan (100 yuan for children under 12) **Tel:** 13910025516



## Emperor Canal Biking and Boating

Cycle from the moat of Forbidden City to Houhai, pay a visit to Chairman Mao's old residence, pass by several historic

sites, then board a boat to follow the imperial route to the Summer Palace, passing Beijing Zoo, Purple Bamboo Garden and other historical sights. After arrive, get on your bike again, cycle around the Summer Palace, then take another way back to town, passing Peking and Tsinghua universities, then have some Beijing family style food, entertained by an old hospitable Beijing couple. Organized by Cycle China.

**When:** June 26 **Meet:** 4 pm under the picture of Chairman Mao at Tian'anmen Square **Cost:** 150 yuan (130 yuan if you provide your own bike).

**Tel:** 6559 3462

## Tianjin and Beach

Chinese Culture Club is organizing a daytrip to the port city Tianjin. First go through downtown on the bus, see the old legation area with traditional European buildings and villas, then drive to Tanggu, a suburb of Tianjin, to tour their flea markets, dine on cheap seafood, and end the trip with a stroll and swim at the beach.

**When:** June 27, 9 am - 7 pm **Meet:** at the Chinese Culture Club to catch the bus, Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang **Cost:** 200 yuan (170 yuan for members) Registration by email and a deposit is required, or pay in advance **Tel:** 8462 2081

## Music

## Wallace China Tour

World-famous trumpet player John Wallace will bring the Brass Band of the British Royal Conservatory of Music to Beijing for the first stop of his China tour.

They will play classical, jazz, new age, light and pop music as well as excerpts from some musicals. The program includes *Pastime With Good Company*, *Music of Scotland*, *Trumpet Voluntary Suite*, *Caravan*, *Londoner in New York* and *Beach Boy Fantasy*.

**Where:** Forbidden City Concert Hall, in Zhongshan Park, Xi Chang'an Jie **When:** 7:30 pm, June 26 **Admission:** 30-280 yuan **Tel:** 6559 8285

## Exhibitions



## Li's Colorful World

Artist Li Fuyuan will show his works at Melodic Art Gallery. His paintings feature accurate shapes and strong colors.

**Where:** Melodic Art Gallery, 14 Jianwai Dajie **When:** July 1-31, 9 am - 5 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6515 8123



## Bai's Complex of Lines

Modern oil paintings by artist Bai Xincheng are displayed at the Qin Gallery. The latest works Bai created are based on "lines," as a kind of connection between Chinese tradition and Western modernism.

**Where:** Qin Gallery, 1-1E Huaweili, north of Beijing Curio City **When:** 9:30 am - 7 pm, until June 30 **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8779 0461

## A Comprehensive Reality

An exhibition of works by Paul S. Nielsen and Wang Yulin. Wang and Nielsen's works are quite distinct, but there are numerous congruencies and connections. Their use of cultural references, perspectives and pictorial space, the interplay of object, symbol and sign, and the sense of time and visual energy, come forward through this exploration.

**Where:** Creation Art Gallery, North end of Ritan Donglu, Chaoyang **When:** July 1-9, (Reception on July 1, from 6:30 pm - 9 pm) **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8561 7570

## Performance



## Honghu Chiwei Dui (The Red Guard on Lake Honghu)

A Chinese opera called *Red Guards in Honghu Lake*, based on a popular movie, this dance opera depicts patriotic deeds against Kuomintang forces by a group of armed units in the revolutionary base areas during the Second Revolutionary Civil War in 1930. It features a combination of eastern and western styles and has been hailed as a milestone in Chinese dance opera.

**Where:** Poly Theater, Dong-sishitiao **When:** June 27-29 7:30 pm **Admission:** 80-880 yuan **Tel:** 6500 1188 ext. 5126



## Lucia di Lammermoor

Directed by Antonello Madall Diaz, *Lucia di Lammermoor* is a dramatic three-act opera set in Scotland in the late 16th. It was first produced in Naples in 1835. (See report on page 11)

**Where:** Tianqiao Theater, 30 Beiwei Lu, Xuanwu **When:** June 26 and 27 **Admission:** 180-680 yuan **Tel:** 8315 6300

## TV and Radio Highlights

HBO

25 Friday

The Ring 9 pm

26 Saturday

The Emperor's Club 9 pm

27 Sunday

Mixed Nuts 11:30 pm

28 Monday

Jason X 9 pm

29 Tuesday

Babe 8:30 pm

30 Wednesday

The Pelican Brief 11:55 pm

1 Thursday

The Saint 9 pm

CCTV-9

Monday - Friday

Around China 6:30 am

Cultural Express 8:30 am

Nature and Science

Chinese Civilization 11:30 am

Cultural Express 2:30 pm

Nature and Science

Chinese Civilization 5:30 pm

Dialogue 7:30 pm

News Updates

Asia Today 8 pm

Sports Scene 11:15 pm

Saturday

Travelogue 9:30 am

Center Stage 11:30 am

Sunday

Sports Weekend 10 am

Documentary 10:30 am

This Week 12:30 am

China Radio International 91.5 FM

Monday - Friday

Easy FM Afternoon 2-7 pm

Fun in Beijing 5:05-5:30 pm

Joy FM 9:05-11 pm

Saturday

Music Memories 8:05-11 am

Euro Hit 40 12:05-1 pm

Music Sans Frontiers 6:05-8 pm

Joy FM 9:05-11 pm

Sunday

Music Memories 8:05-11 am

Jazz Beat 6:05-8 pm

Joy FM 9:05-11 pm





Three Sages of the West, Thousand-Buddha Stockade

By Peng Juan

Although it receives relatively little publicity and far fewer visitors than the better known Dunhuang and Dazu grottos. Anyue, a county in Sichuan Province boasts of a treasure trove of splendid stone sculptures and holds an important place in Chinese art history.

The county seat is 170 kilometers from Chengdu, capital of Sichuan, about midway between Chongqing Municipality and Chengdu. The small town would be entirely unremarkable were it not for the ancient stone sculptures that lie scattered about the four corners of the county.



A statue in Mingshan Temple

Photo by Imaginechina



Lotus-Flower-Hand Guanyin in Yuanjue Cave

# Road to Stone Wonders



A statue in Thousand-Buddha Stockade



A stone Qing Dynasty pailou, Anyue



Nirvana of the Left-Reclining Sakyamuni, Sleeping-Buddha Temple

Photos provided by Peng Juan

Dating back to 521, during the Southern Dynasty (420-589), the Anyue grottos have a history of about 1,500 years, with activity reaching a peak during the Song Dynasty (960-1279). Today, there are more than 200 grottos housing over 100,000 Buddhist statues and sutras of some 400,000 characters.

## Yuanjue Cave

Yuanjue Cave is located on Yunju Mountain, 1 kilometer southeast of the county seat.

Work began in the Tang Dynasty (617-907) and flourished in the period of the Five Dynasties (907-960) and the Song Dynasty. There are now 103 niches with 1,933 statues of various sizes and 25 stele inscriptions, and one Tang Dynasty pagoda.

On the southern slopes of Yunju Mountain stand sculptures from the Tang and Five dynasties, depicting scenes from the Buddhist hell, the Sixteen Arhats, Thousand Buddhas, and Guanyin (the Goddess of Mercy). On the northern slope are grottos containing three well-preserved statues – one of Sakyamuni and two of Guanyin. These exquisitely carved, magnificent statues are all over 6 meters

tall. The niches of the Three Sages of the West, Scenes of Naraka, Kubera and Combination of Three Religions also highlight the superb craftsmanship of the ancient Chinese sculptors.

Statue of Sakyamuni – 6 meters tall. He is wearing an edged *kasaya* (monastic robe) with his hair in a bun. His smiling face is tilted to the right, looking down at Kasyapa Buddha in the lower right of the grotto, who is looking back at him.

Lotus-Flower-Hand Guanyin – 6.5 meters tall. She wears a crown with a sitting Buddha in the center. Holding a budding lotus in her hands, the smiling Guanyin is looking kindly at a girl to her lower left.

Vase-Holding Guanyin – 7 meters tall. Her shape is similar to the Lotus-Flower-Hand Guanyin, but her hair is of shoulder length. She wears more jewelry, with bead earrings in her ears. She holds a vase in her left hand and a sprig of willow in her right hand.

## Thousand-Buddha Stockade

Located on the steep Mount Dayun in the village of Jiadao, the Thousand-Buddha Stockade is 3 kilometers north-west of

the county seat. It includes 105 niches with about 3,000 statues, seven cliff bas-reliefs, three Tang Dynasty tablets and 26 inscriptions. Started in 593 AD, they were mostly created in the Tang and Song dynasties.

Of the seven bas-reliefs, the tallest is 4.6 meters and the smallest, just 0.8 meters. The biggest niche-grotto is 6.4 meters wide, 6 meters tall and 3.3 meters deep. There are 14 statues about 3 to 6 meters tall, with the tallest, Sakyamuni, 6.2 meters.

There are statues of Sakyamuni Preaching the Law, Maitreya, the Transformation Texts of the Buddha of Medicine, the Three Sages of the West, Thousand-hand Guanyin and Rajas. The statue of One Buddha With Four Bodhisattvas, though heavily eroded, still shows the fine craftsmanship of the stone carvers. There are a number of rarely seen statues in the grotto of the Buddha of Medicine, such as the Nine Violent Deaths and the Twelve Great Aspirations.

## Xuanmiao Temple

Xuanmiao Temple, located on Mount Jisheng, is about 20 kilometers northwest of the Thousand-Buddha Stockade. It has 79 niches housing about 1,300 statues and 13 stele inscriptions, all made during the Tang Dynasty.

Xuanmiao Temple boasts a large number of early Daoist statues, including the Three Purities, Tianzun, Laojun, and the Warriors.

## Sleeping-Buddha Temple

It is an hour's drive from Tongxian to Bamiao, a village from where visitors can take a 40-minute boat ride to the Sleeping-Buddha Temple.

Construction of the Sleeping-Buddha Temple started in the Tang Dynasty and it was completed during the Five Dynasties period. It boasts 139 grottos housing 1,600 statues carved along 500 meters of

cliffs. The most magnificent site is the Nirvana of the Left-Reclining Sakyamuni.

This huge statue was carved out of a cliff 5 meters high on the northern slope of the temple. The Buddha is 23 meters long; his head alone is 3 meters long. With his feet pointed west, the Buddha faces south, and his head is supported by a lotus flower pillow. He has a high nose and deep-set eyes, half closed to give him a solemn expression. He wears a thin *kasaya*, with hands stretched out horizontally and feet bared.

There are also 15 grottos of stone-inscribed sutras of 22 kinds with more than 400,000 characters, which is of important value for the study of sutra editions. On January 13, 1985, the cliff bas-reliefs of the Sleeping-Buddha Temple were listed by the State Council as one of the third group of major state-protected cultural relics.

## Pilu Cave

Perhaps the most exquisite and best-preserved cave is Pilu Cave. Founded in the early Song Dynasty, it is located on Mount Tazi in Shiyang Town, more than 50 kilometers southeast of Anyue County. A provincial highway between Anyue County and Dazu County passes nearby.

About 6.6 meters high, 14 meters wide and 4.6 meters deep, Pilu Cave has 14 niches with 465 statues. The most exquisite is the Purple Bamboo Guanyin in Grotto 19.

Another special grotto is one with statues depicting Liu Benzun, who devised 10 methods to cultivate himself to attain Buddha status. Ten groups of carvings show Liu Benzun standing barefoot in snow, gouging out his eyes, cutting off his ears and arms, and so on. In each group, Liu Benzun is depicted as the main figure, with smaller Heavenly Kings, Buddhas, Bodhisattvas and officials watching. The prominence given to Liu Benzun makes the carvings even more graphic.

## Huayan Cave

Dating back to the Song Dynasty, Huayan Cave is located on Mount Xianggai in the village of Chiyun, 6 kilometers east of Pilu Cave. It preserves two large niche-grottos housing 159 statues, including the Three Huayan Kings, the Ten Stages of Mahayana Bodhisattva Development, and the Fifty-three Visits of Sudhana. Also, there is a grotto reflecting a combination of Buddhism, Daoism and Confucianism. The statues in Huayan Cave are among the highest ranking in Anyue and have an important status in Chinese art history.

## Mingshan Temple

Mingshan Temple, located in the village of Minyue on Hutou Mountain, is 69 kilometers southeast of Anyue town. Founded in the Song Dynasty, Mingshan Temple has over 20 niches with 63 statues and 23 stele inscriptions, including Vairocana Buddha, Guanyin, Mahasthama, Manjusri, the Twelve Lokapalas, and Vairocana Buddha Accompanying the Emperor of the East Peak.

**Tips:** The grottos in Anyue County gradually spread east and southwest toward neighboring Dazu County, where the famous Dazu Grottos lie. There is a highway linking Anyue and Dazu, making access very convenient.

**Accommodation:** The two-star Anyue Hotel has rooms for around 120 yuan per night. There is a guest house at the Sleeping Buddha Temple and farmhouses at Jiadao and Bamiao villages offer inexpensive accommodation for those who want a taste of rural life.

**Getting there:** Return flights to Chengdu cost between 1,720 and 2,880, depending on discount availability. From Chengdu there are regular buses, or you can take a taxi for the two hour drive.